

STORY: ISUNA HASEKURA

ART: KEITO KOUME

CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA

SPICE & WOLY

VOL. 9

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPICE & WOLF

Lawrence

A clever young merchant. Traveling in search of Holo's homeland of Yoitsu.



Holo

Lawrence's traveling companion, a beautiful girl. Her true form is that of the wolf-god of the harvest.



Col

A boy saved by Lawrence at the river checkpoint. A naive but clever lad.



Eve

A mysterious merchant woman. Normally hides her face and dresses like a man.

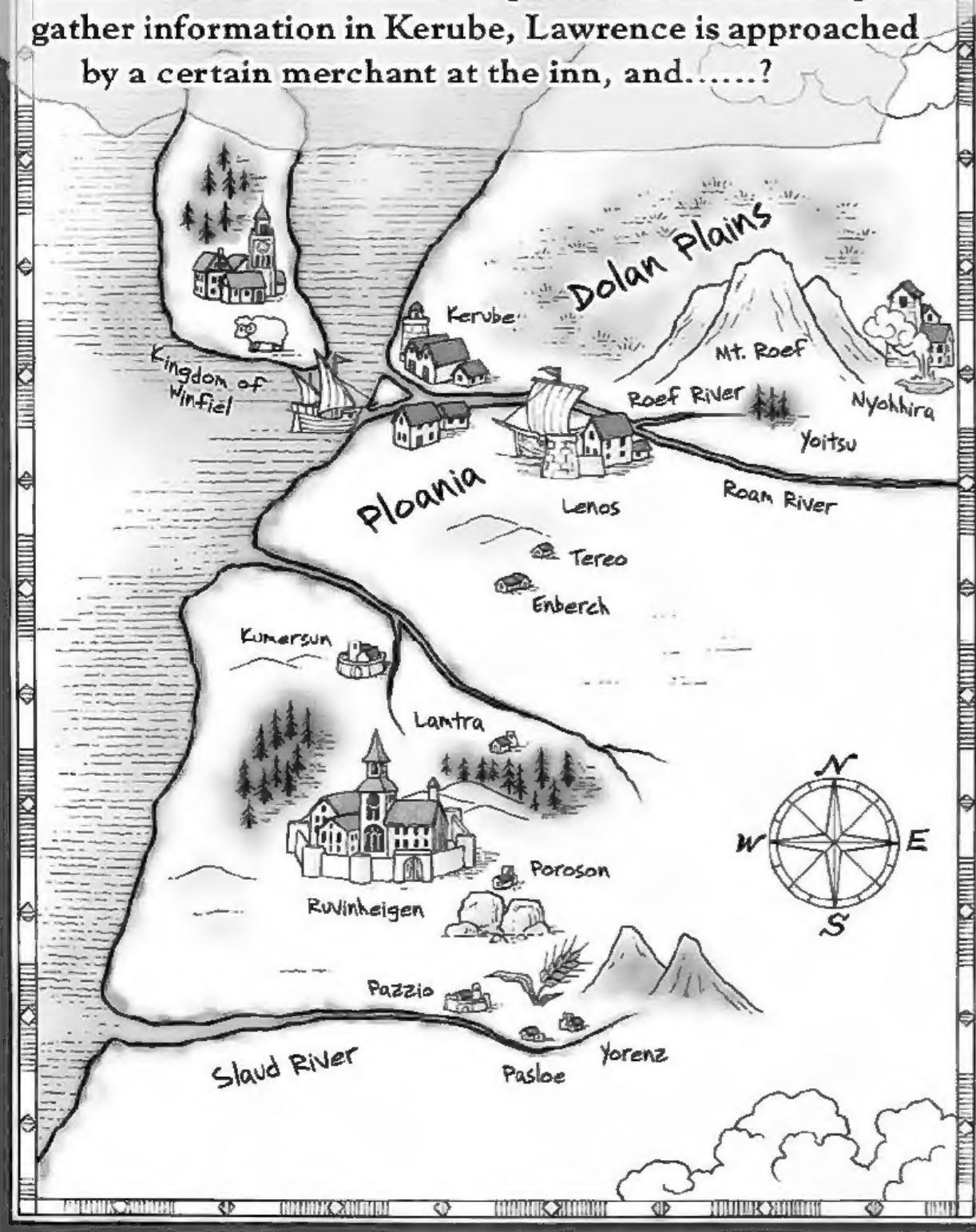


Kieman

The Kerube branch chief of the trade guild that counts Lawrence as one of its members. A cool-headed, canny businessman.

Introduction

In search of the forest of Yoitsu, Holo's homeland, Lawrence and Holo continue their travels. Avoiding an unstable situation in the town of Lenos, they proceed downriver toward the port town of Kerube. Along the way, they hear from a boatman about a forbidden book that tells of how to strip-mine a mountain bare. Lawrence and Holo decide to seek out the text to protect Yoitsu. Setting out to gather information in Kerube, Lawrence is approached by a certain merchant at the inn, and.....?

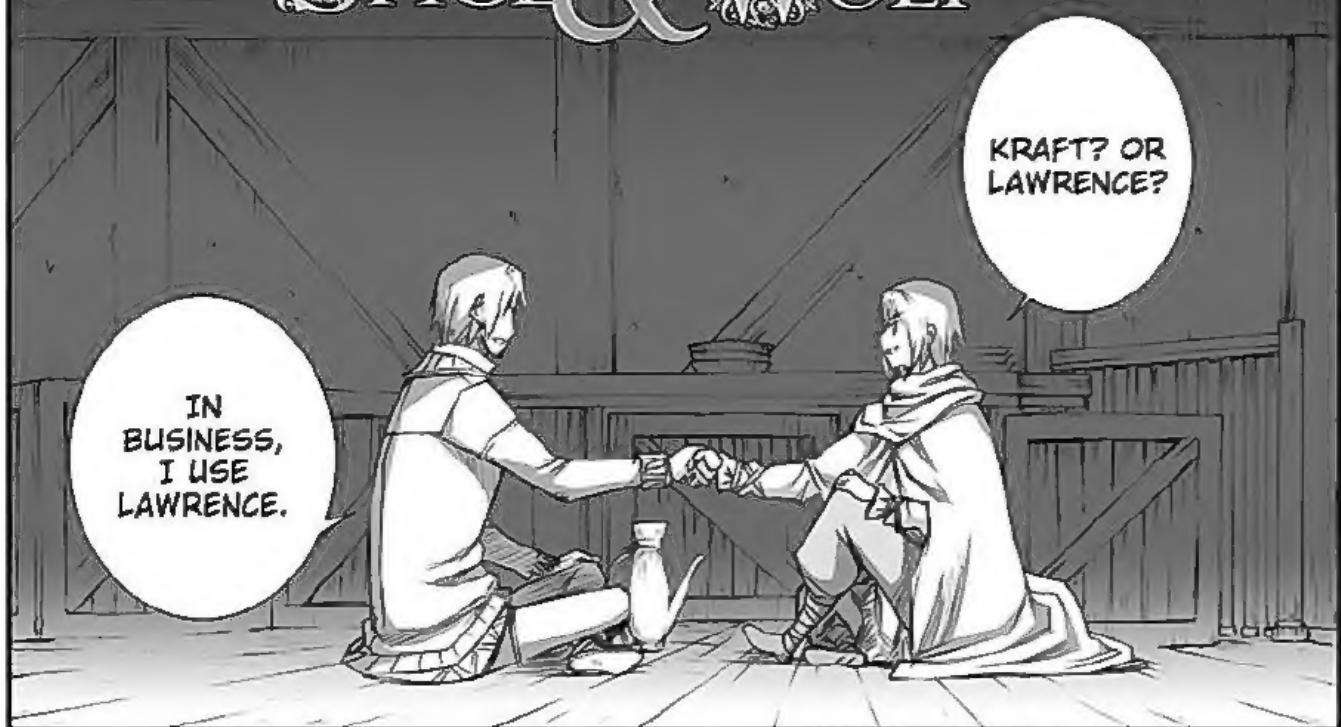


SPICE & WOLF

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SPICE & WOLF







YOU HAVE
THE BOY
TOO, BUT I'M
GUESSING
HE'S A
RECENT
ADDITION?



HE'S GOT A
GOOD
EYE FOR
PEOPLE.

THE
IMPORTANT
THING...IS
THAT OLD
MAN AROLD
LIKES YOU.



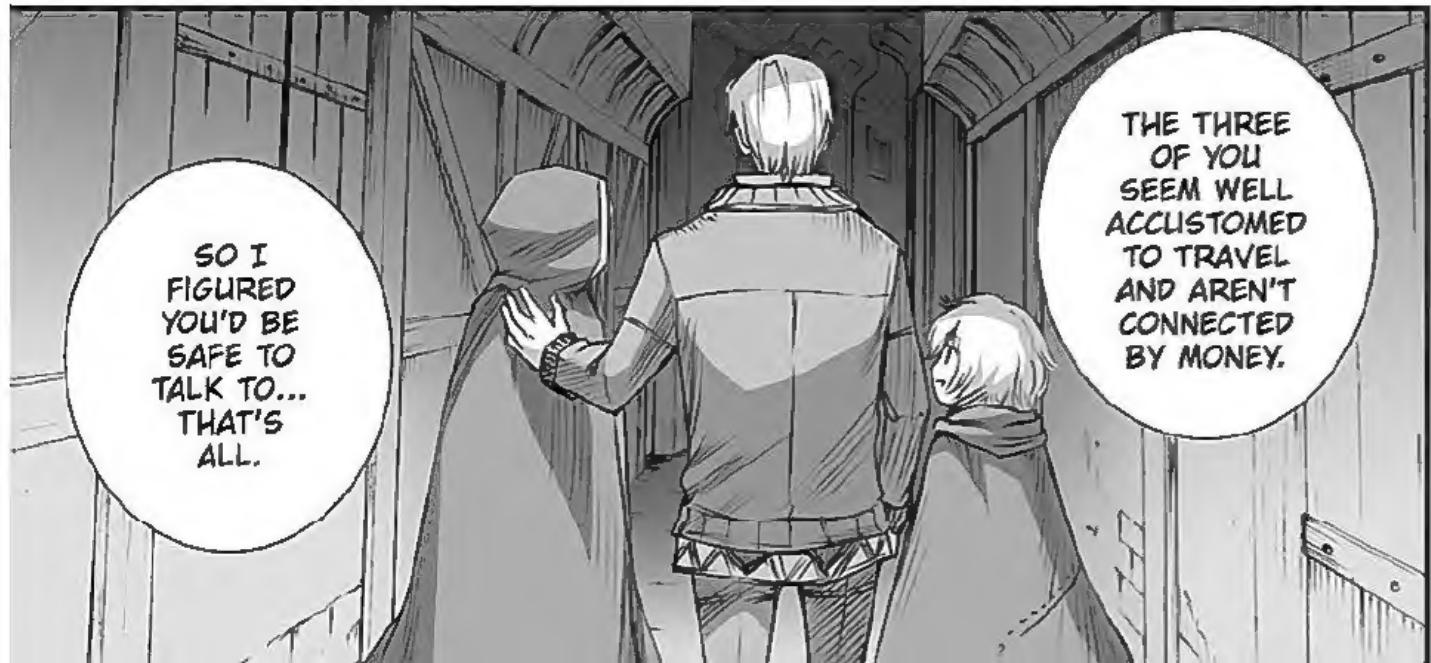
AH, THE
CIRCUMSTANCES
AROUND MY
COMPANION
ARE RATHER
COMPLICATED...



I'VE NO
INTENTION
OF PRYING.



THAT
AND YOUR
CHARMING
TRAVELING
COMPANION.

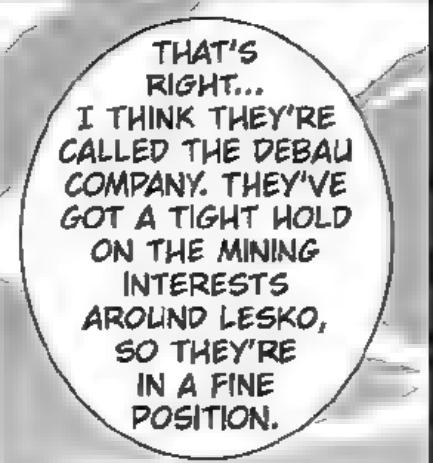
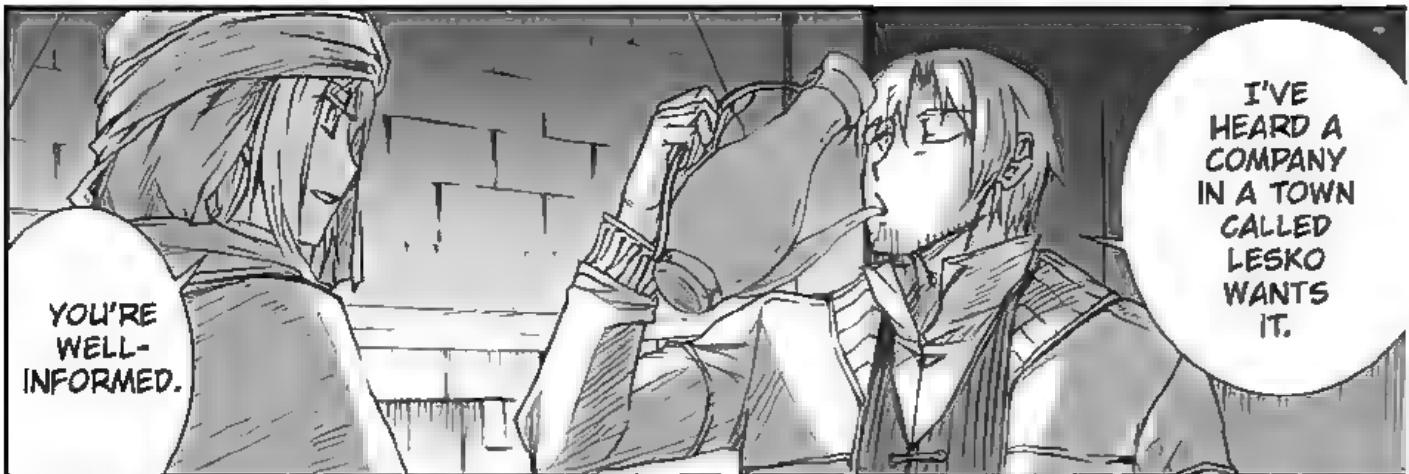


SO I
FIGURED
YOU'D BE
SAFE TO
TALK TO...
THAT'S
ALL.

THE THREE
OF YOU
SEEM WELL
ACCLIMATED
TO TRAVEL
AND AREN'T
CONNECTED
BY MONEY.







I DEAL
WITH THE
JEAN
COMPANY
FROM TIME
TO TIME.

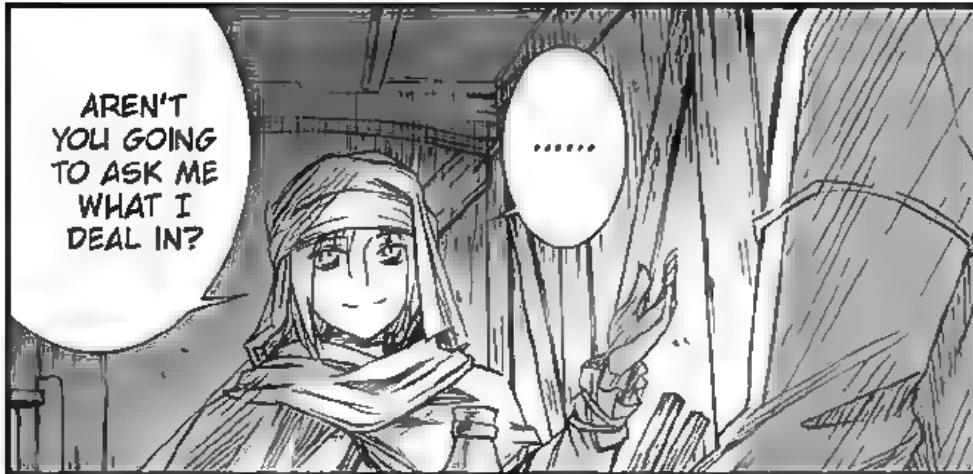
I'LL
WRITE YOU
A LETTER
OF INTRO-
DUCTION.

I CAN SEE
WHY OLD
MAN AROLD
LIKES YOU!

IT'S SO
SUSPICIOUS
THAT IT'S
STRANGELY
BELIEVABLE.

THEY'RE
LOOKING
FOR A BOOK
WITH A HUGE
REWARD ON
IT, THOUGH.

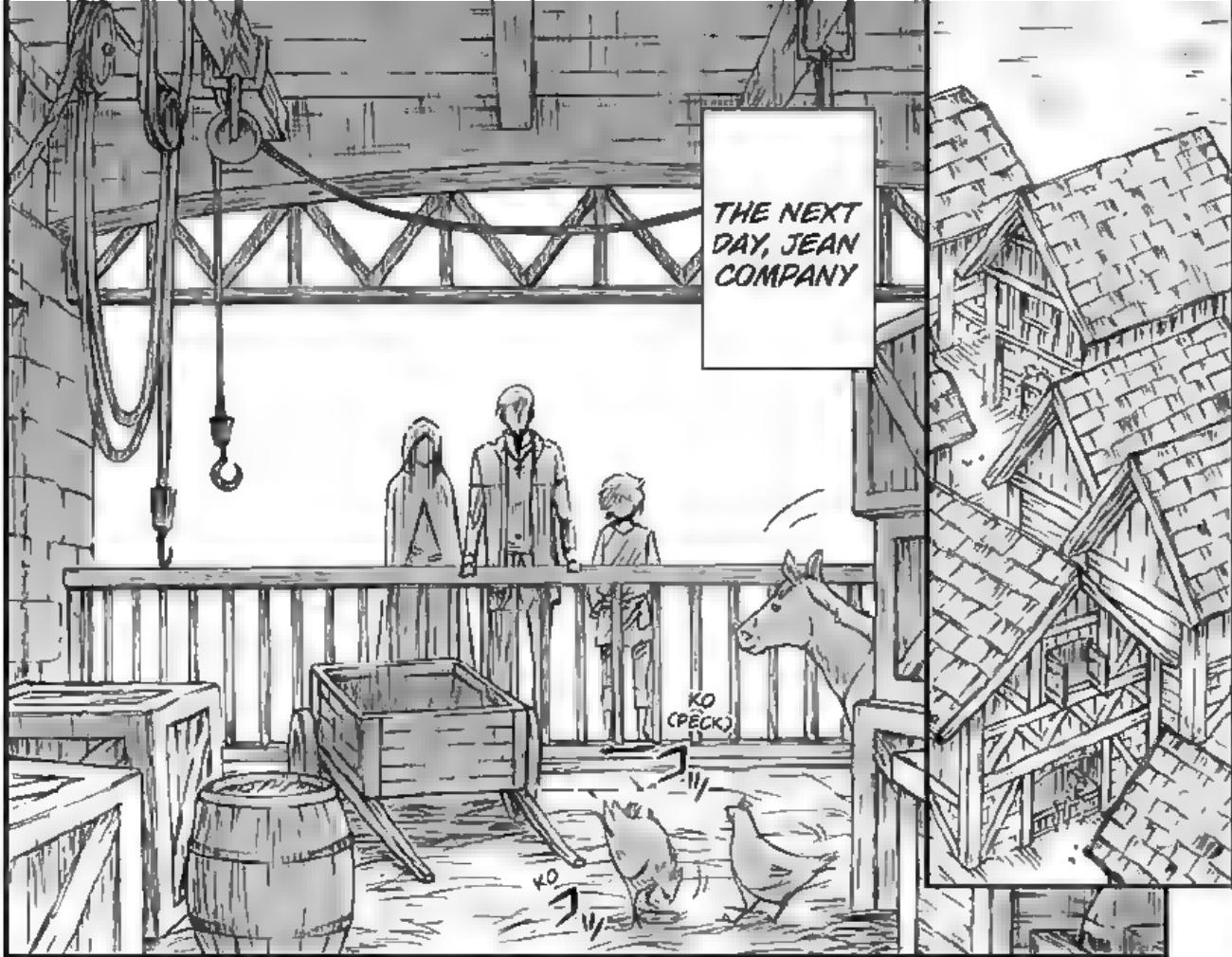
A
TRAVELING
MERCHANT
CALLING ON
A COMPANY
ABOUT THE
BOOK WITH A
WOMAN AND
CHILD IN
TOW.







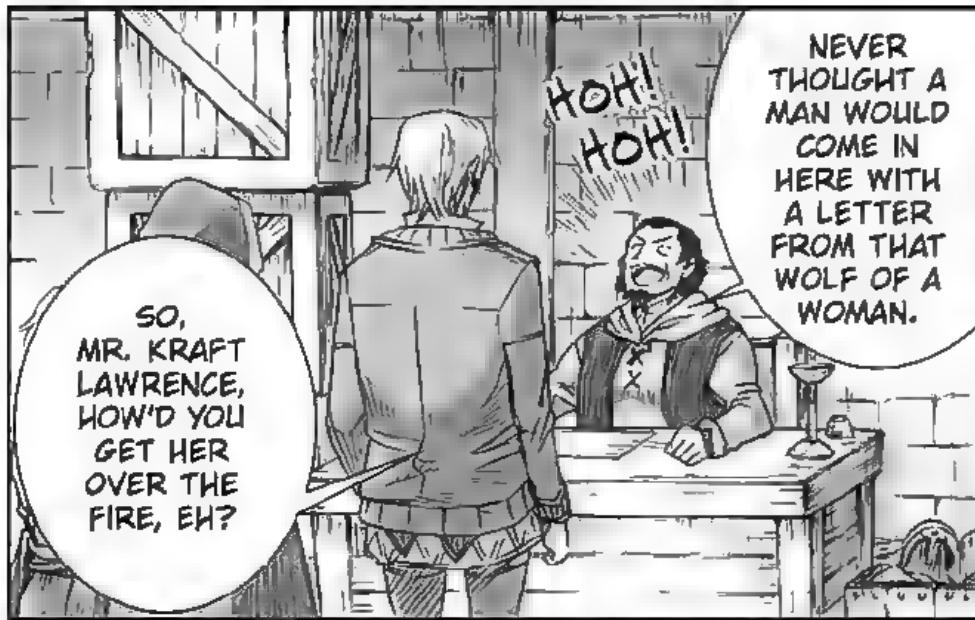














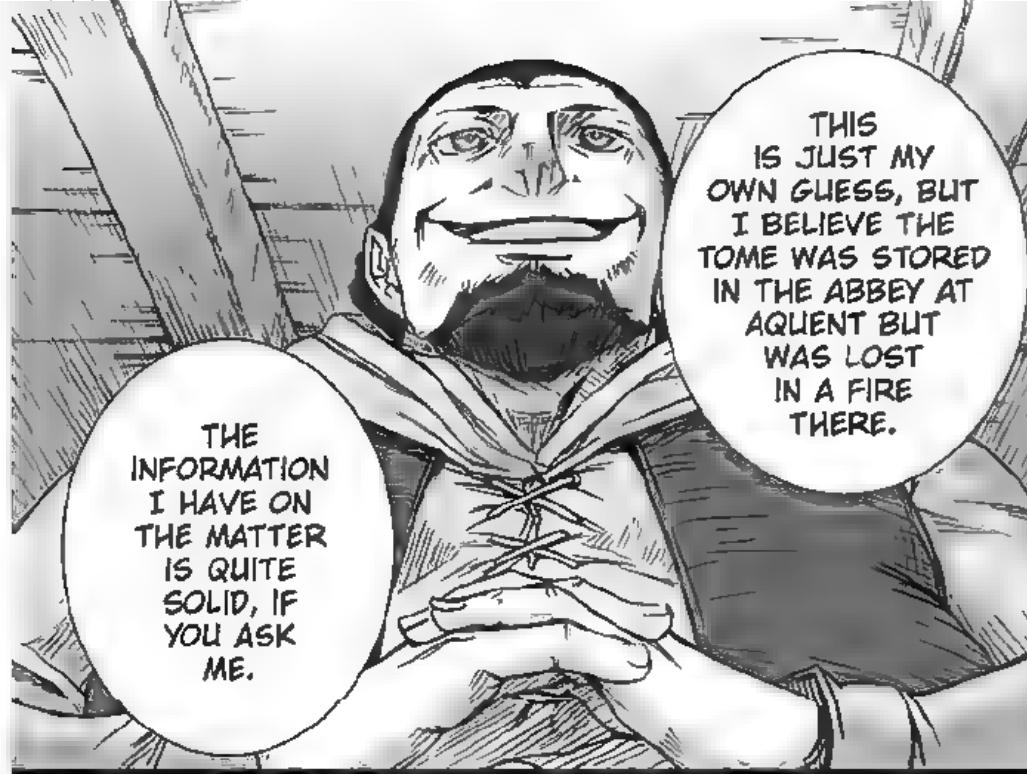


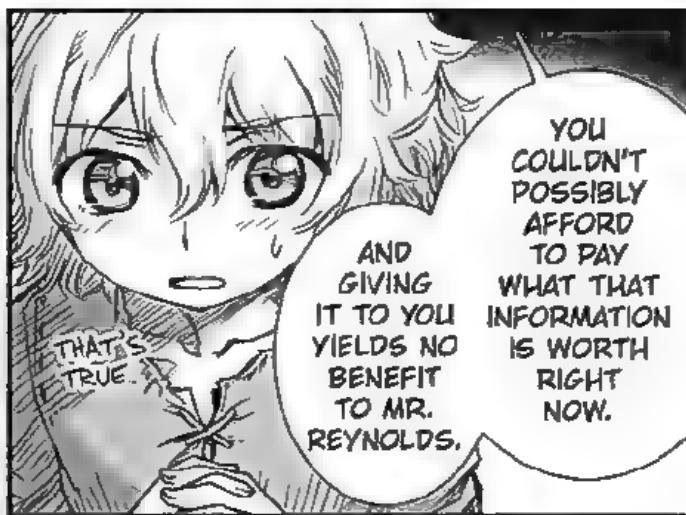
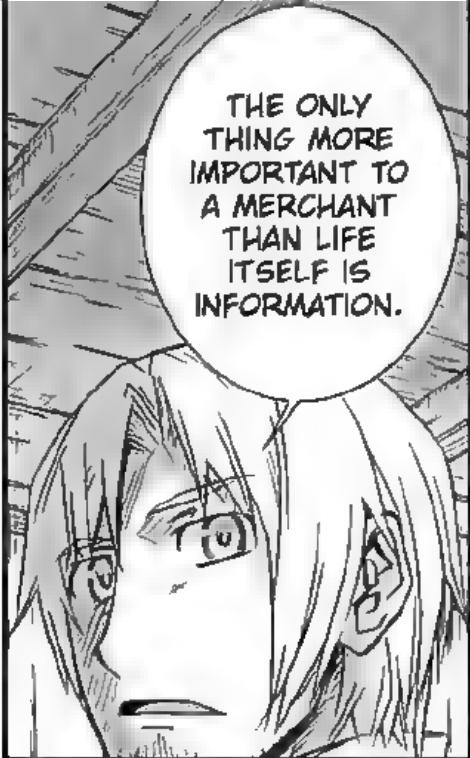
...AFTER
HEARING THE
RUMOR THAT
A CUSTOMER
OF MINE HAD
PLT A TRULY
REMARKABLE
PRICE ON A
CERTAIN
BOOK.

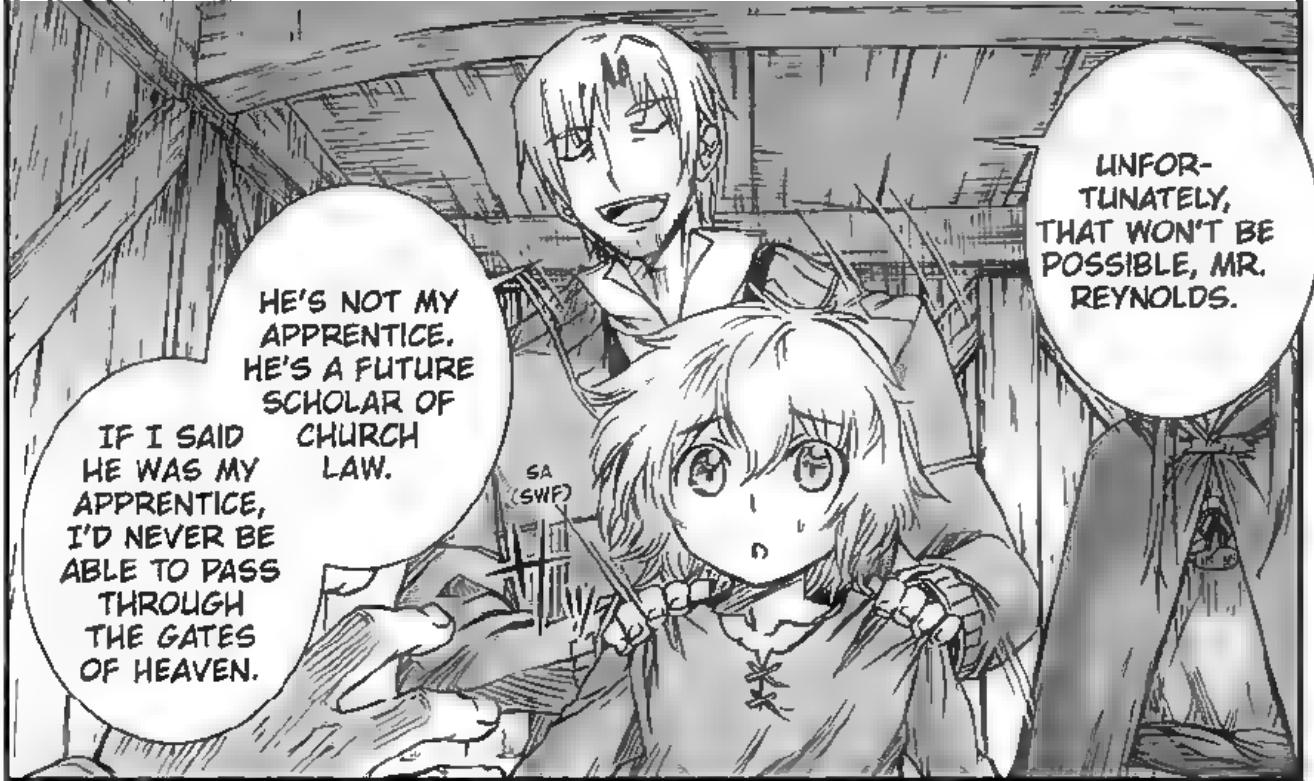
THIS...
IS THE
RESULT OF
THE EFFORT
OF ALL THE
PEOPLE
WHO SO
HELPFULLY
COOPER-
ATED...



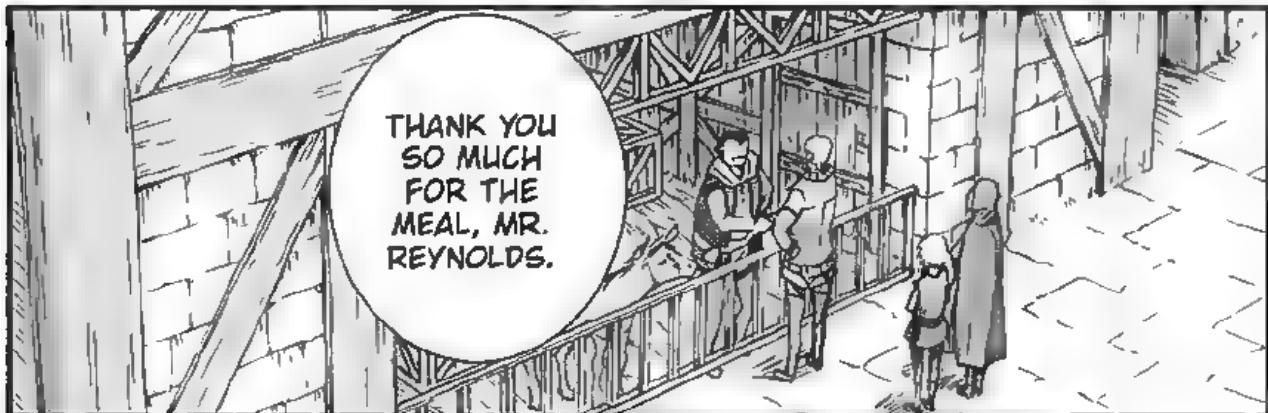
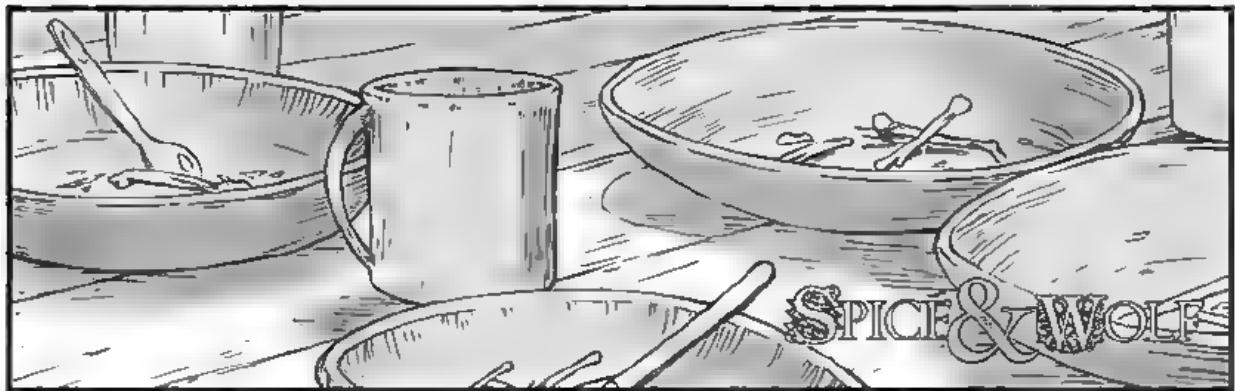












SPICE & WOLF







IT'S A BIG STEP FORWARD.







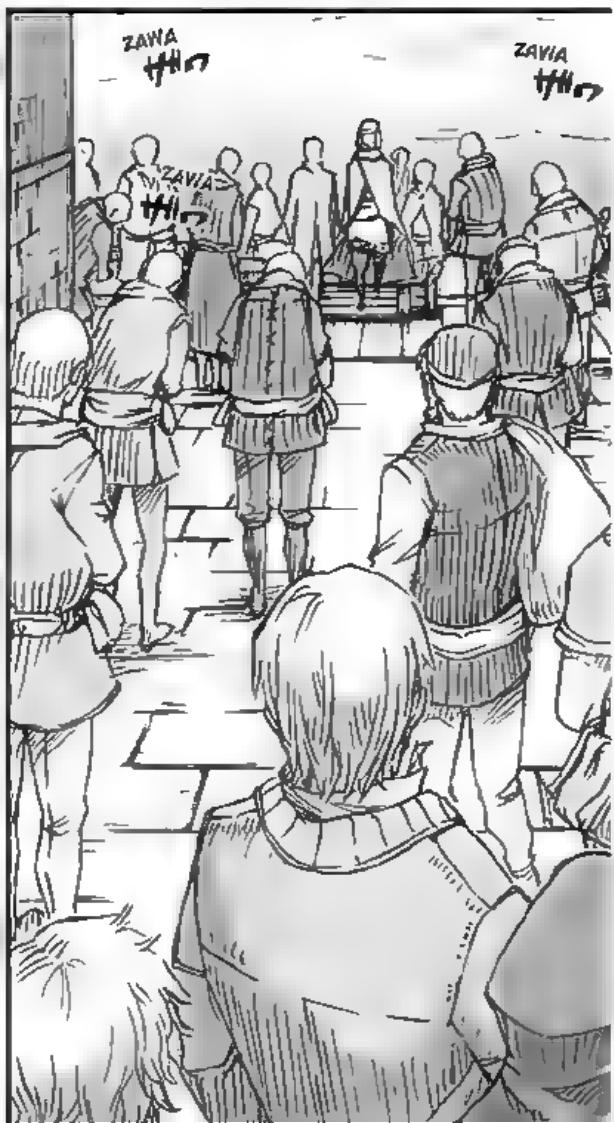
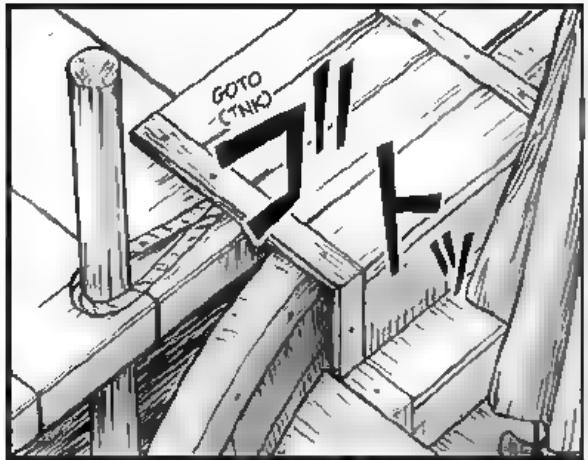


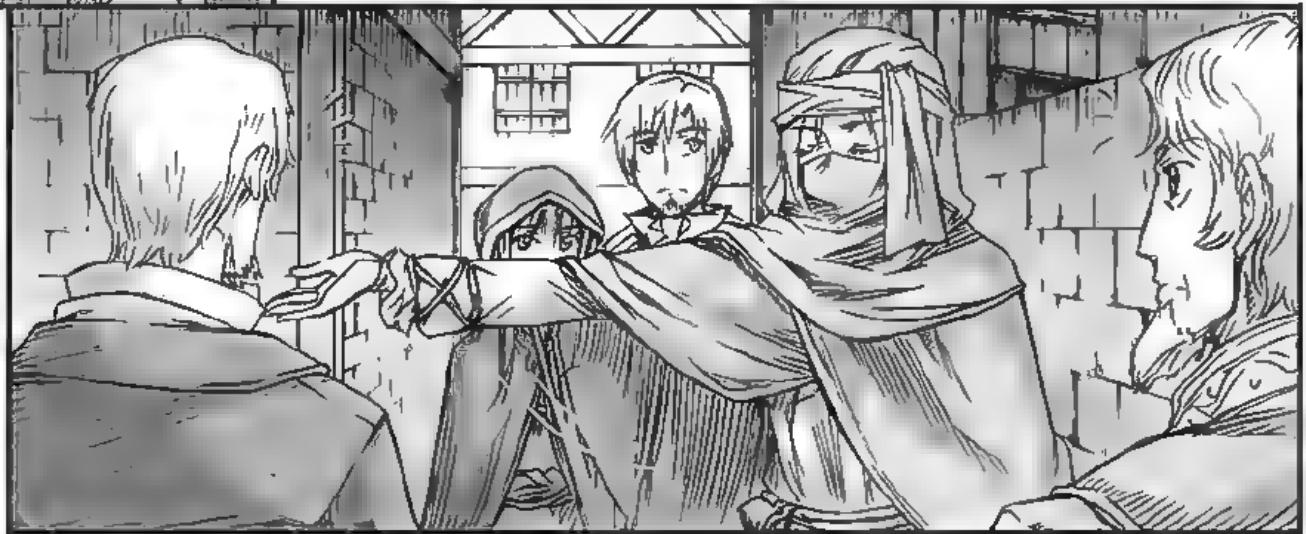




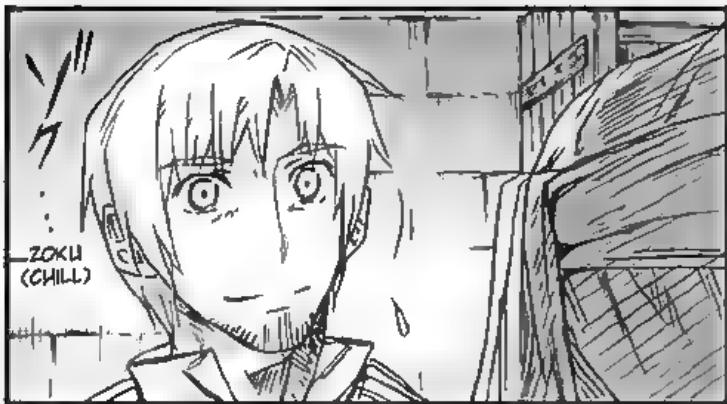








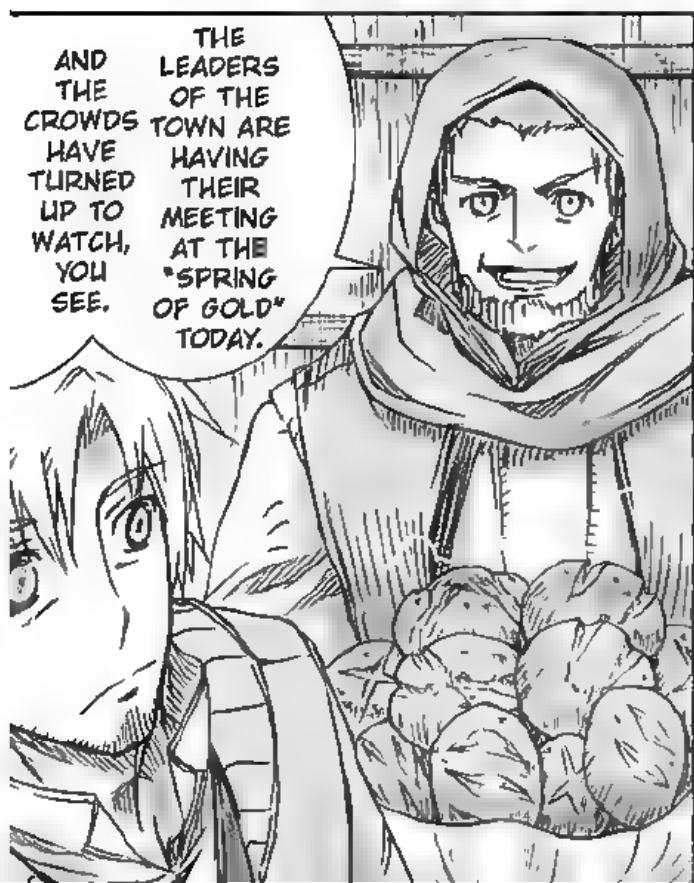


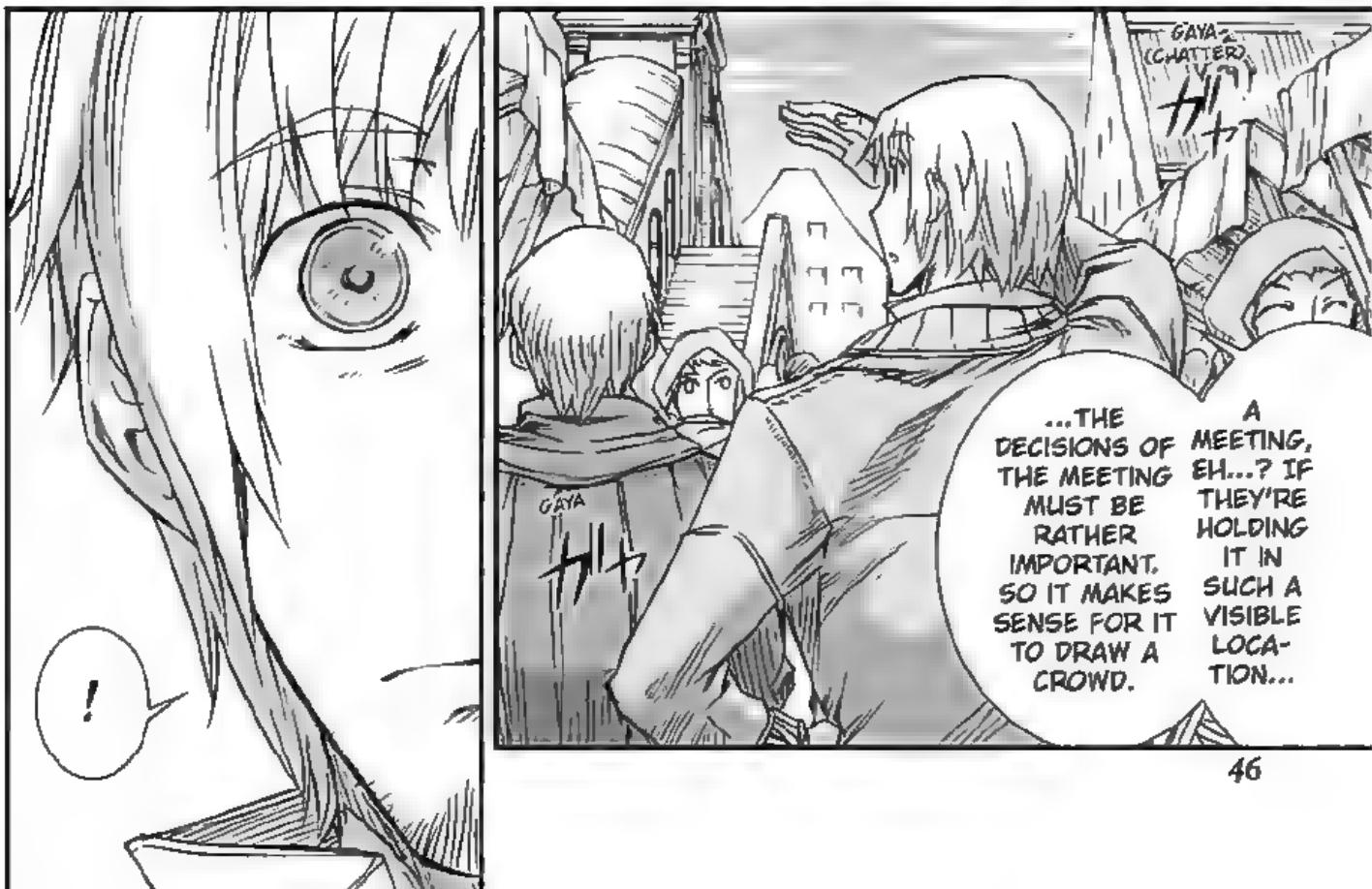
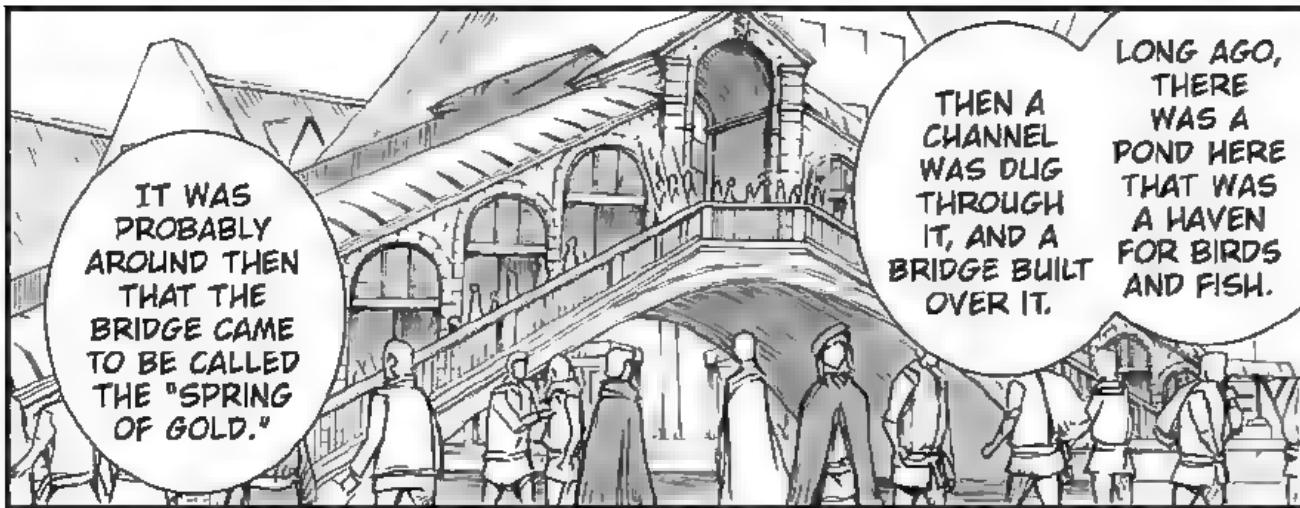


—BUT
THEY'RE
AWFULY
GOOD AT
BOOK-
KEEPING.



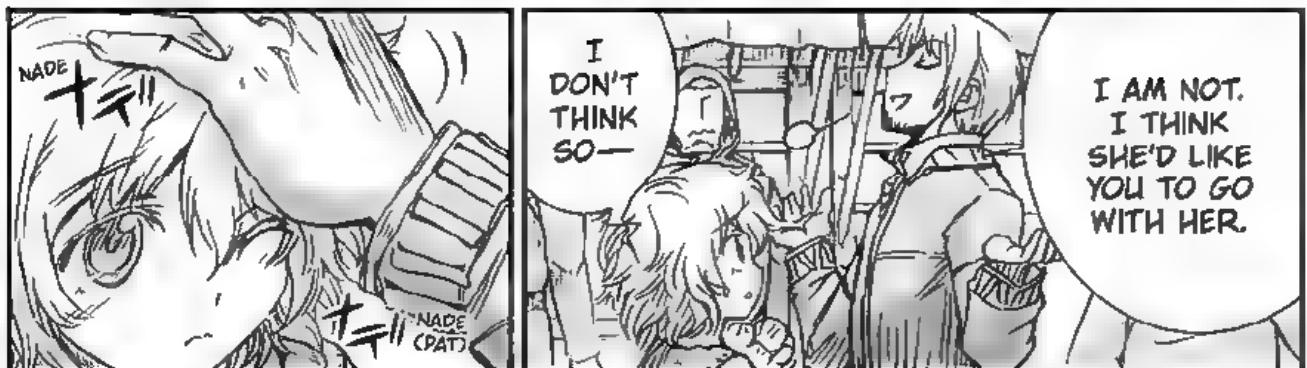
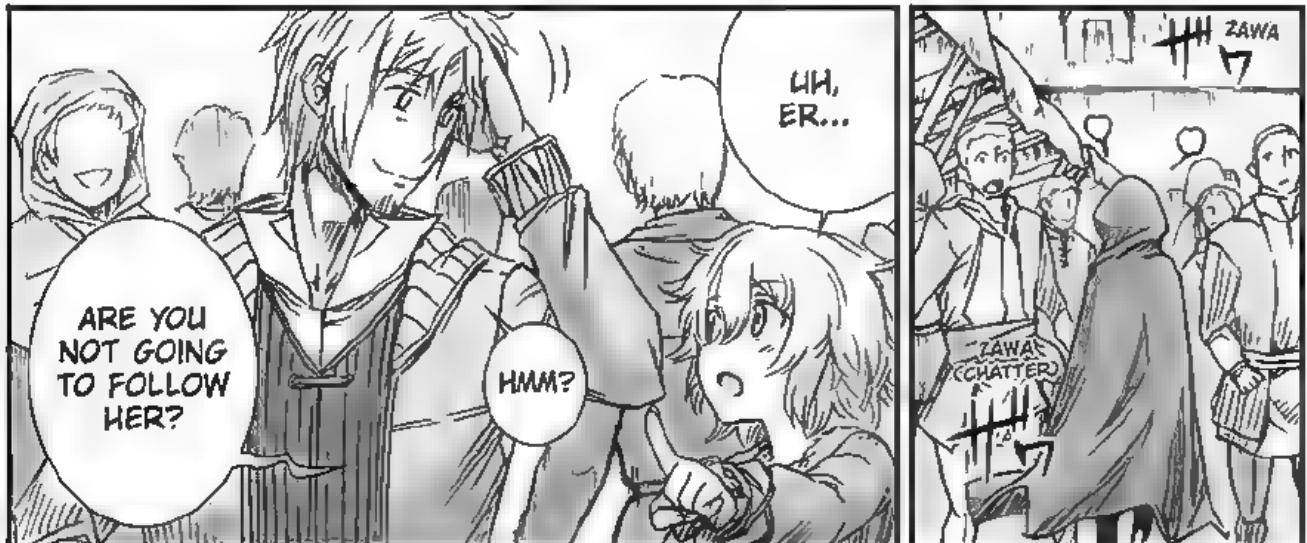




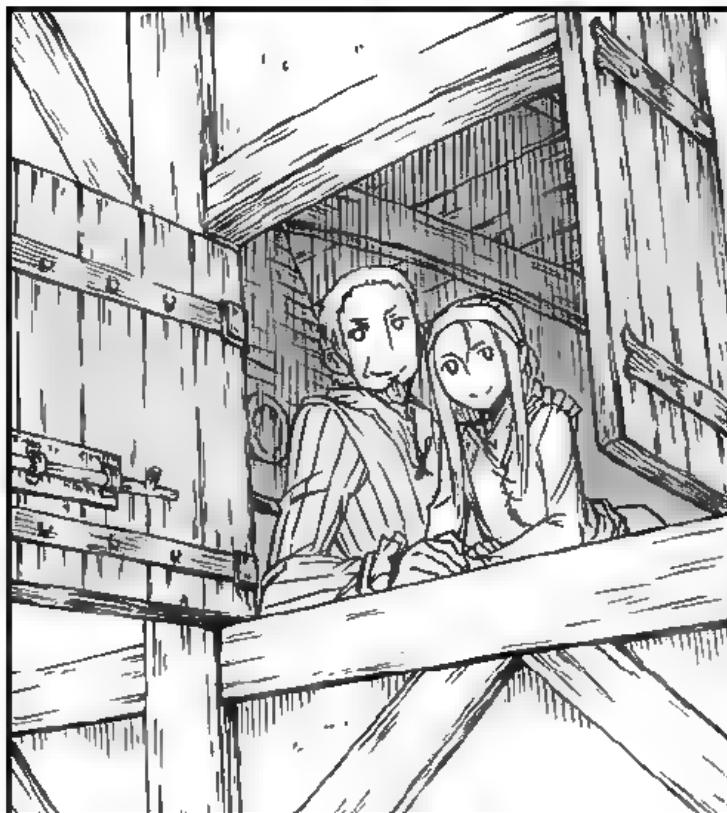
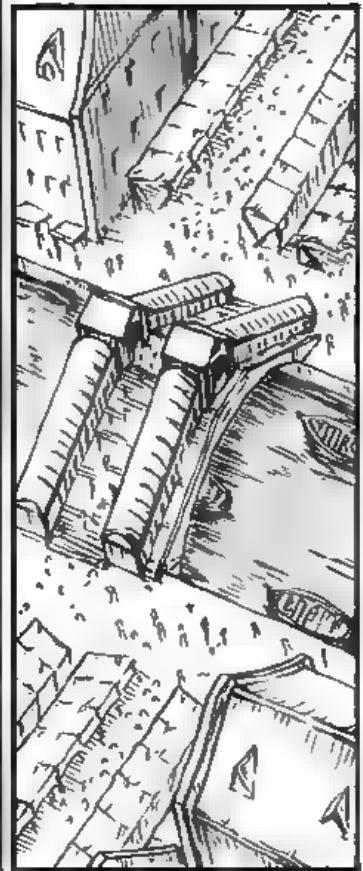




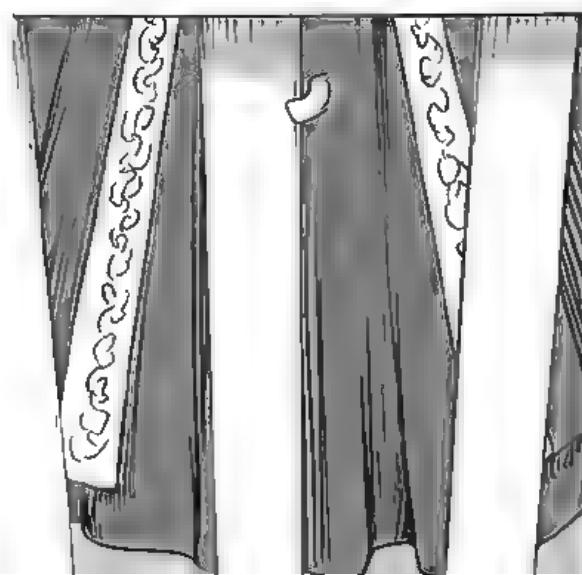


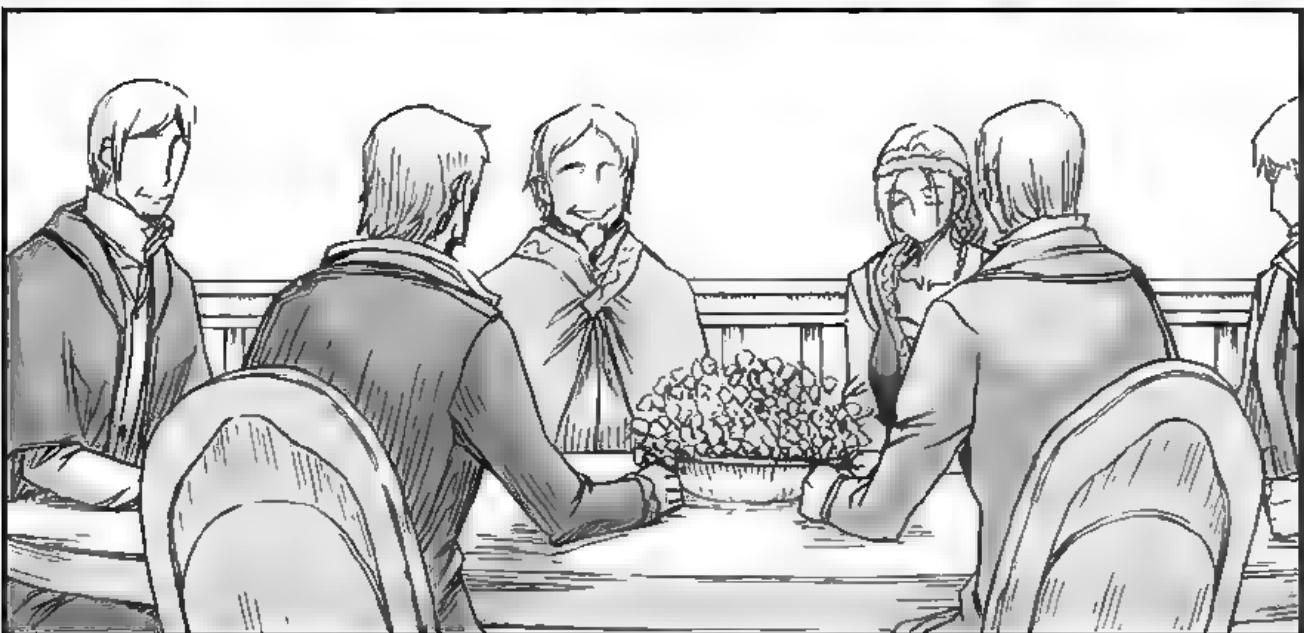
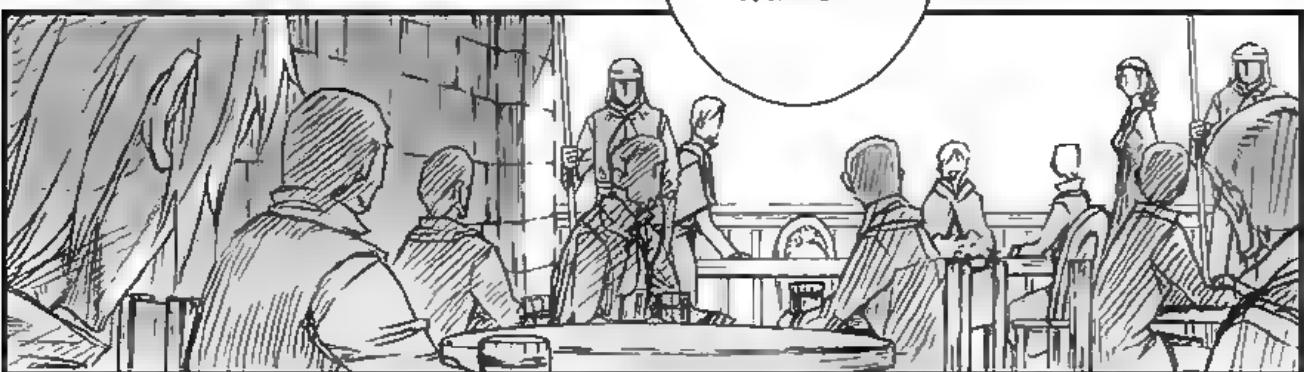
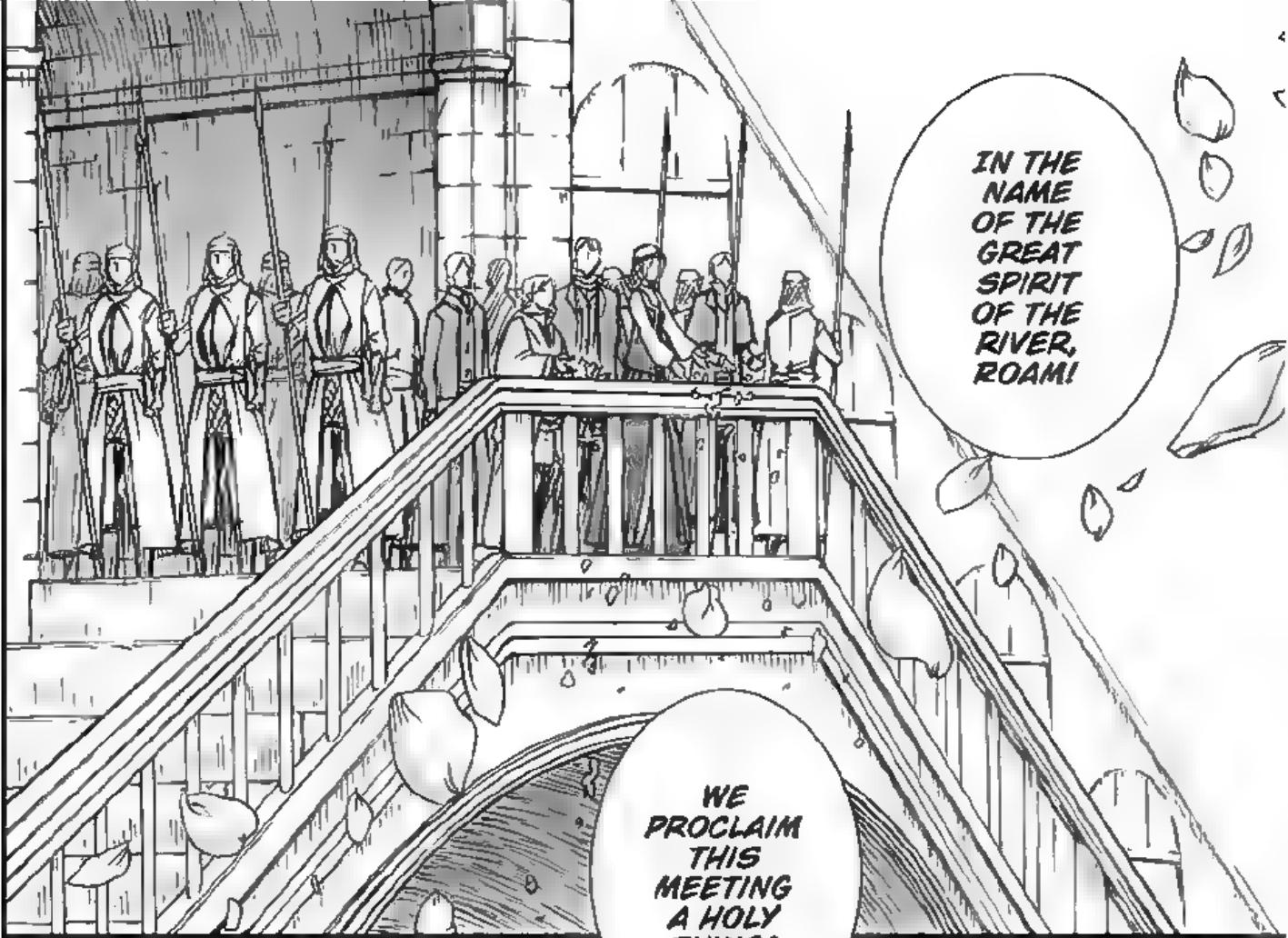




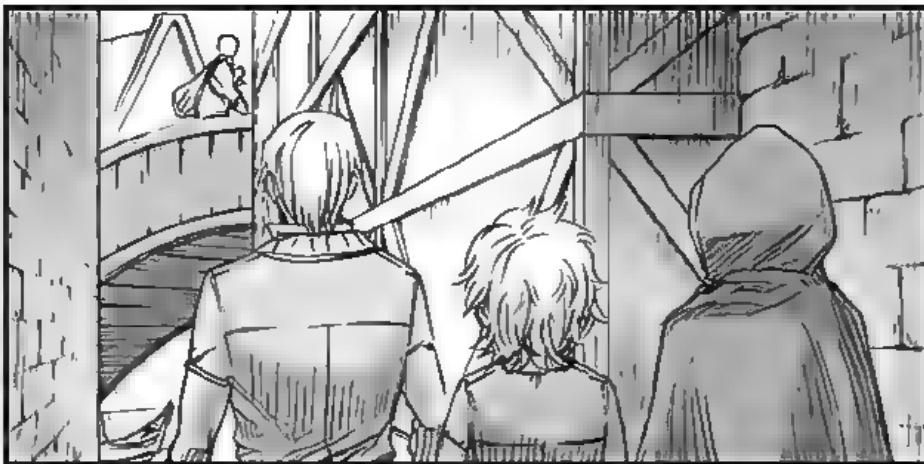




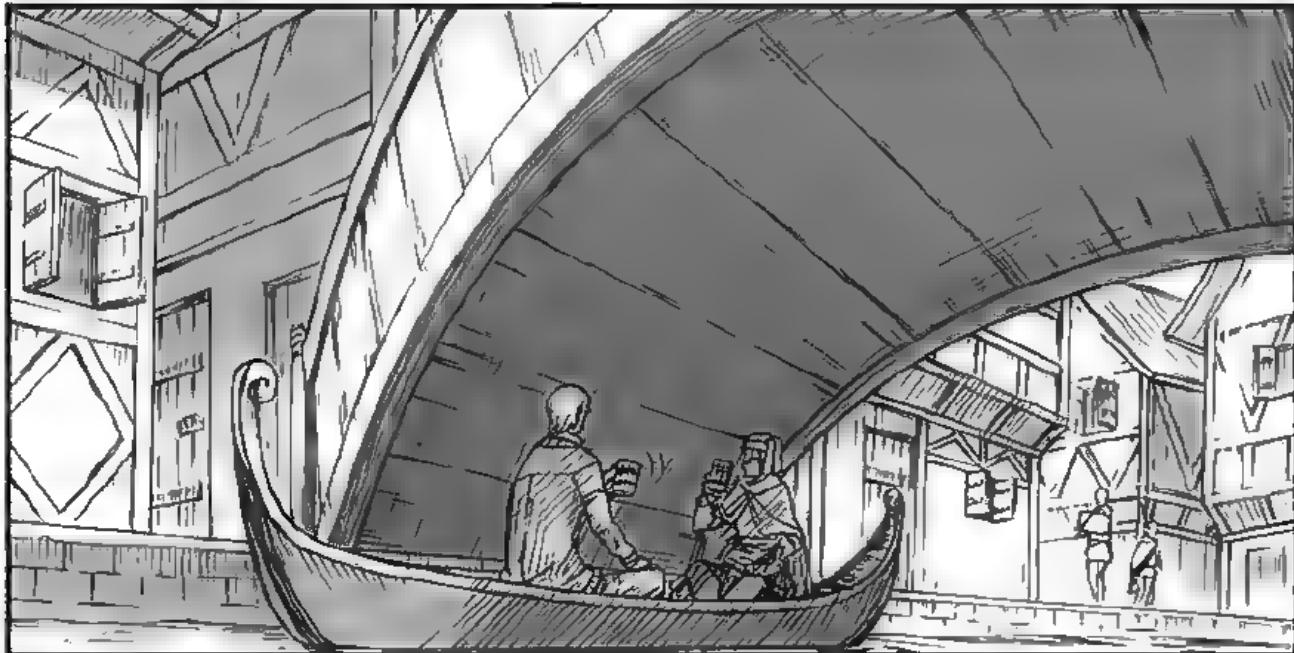


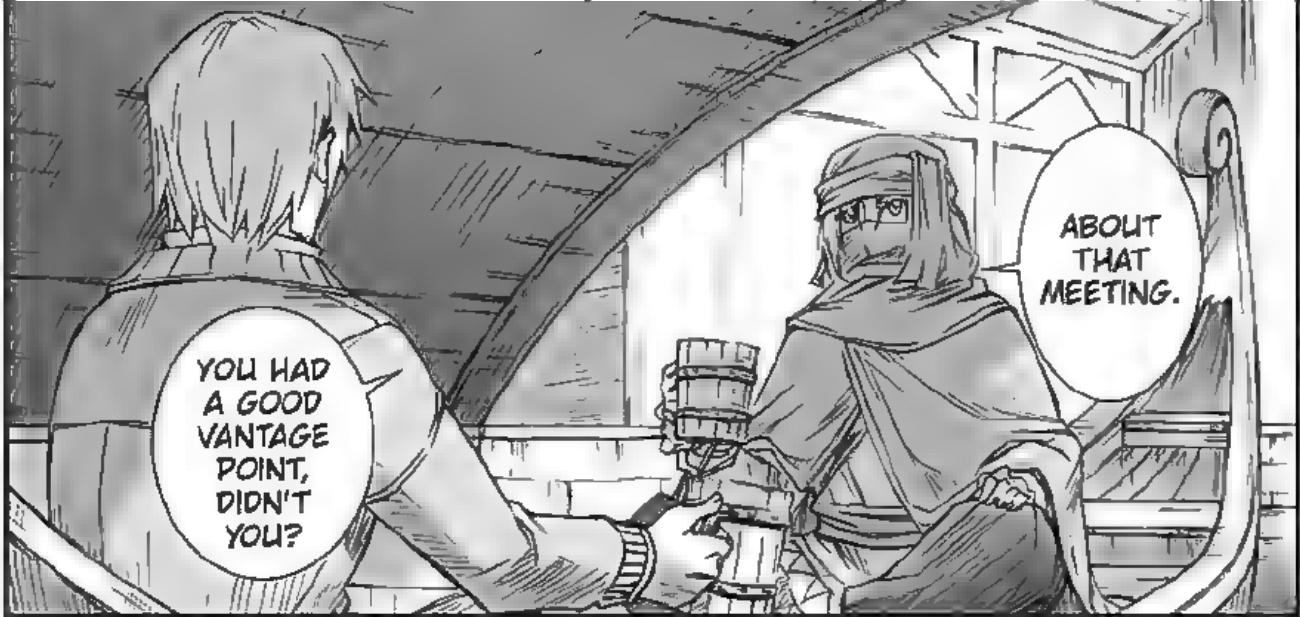






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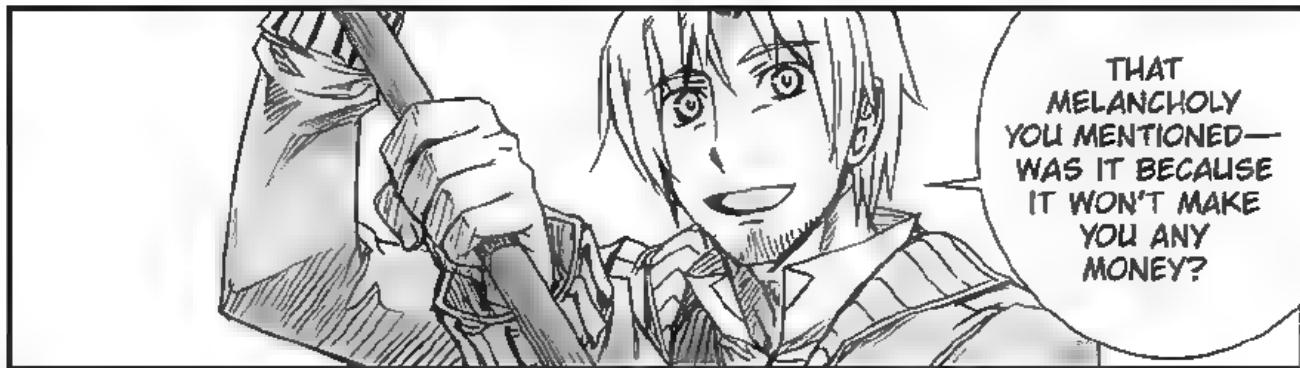


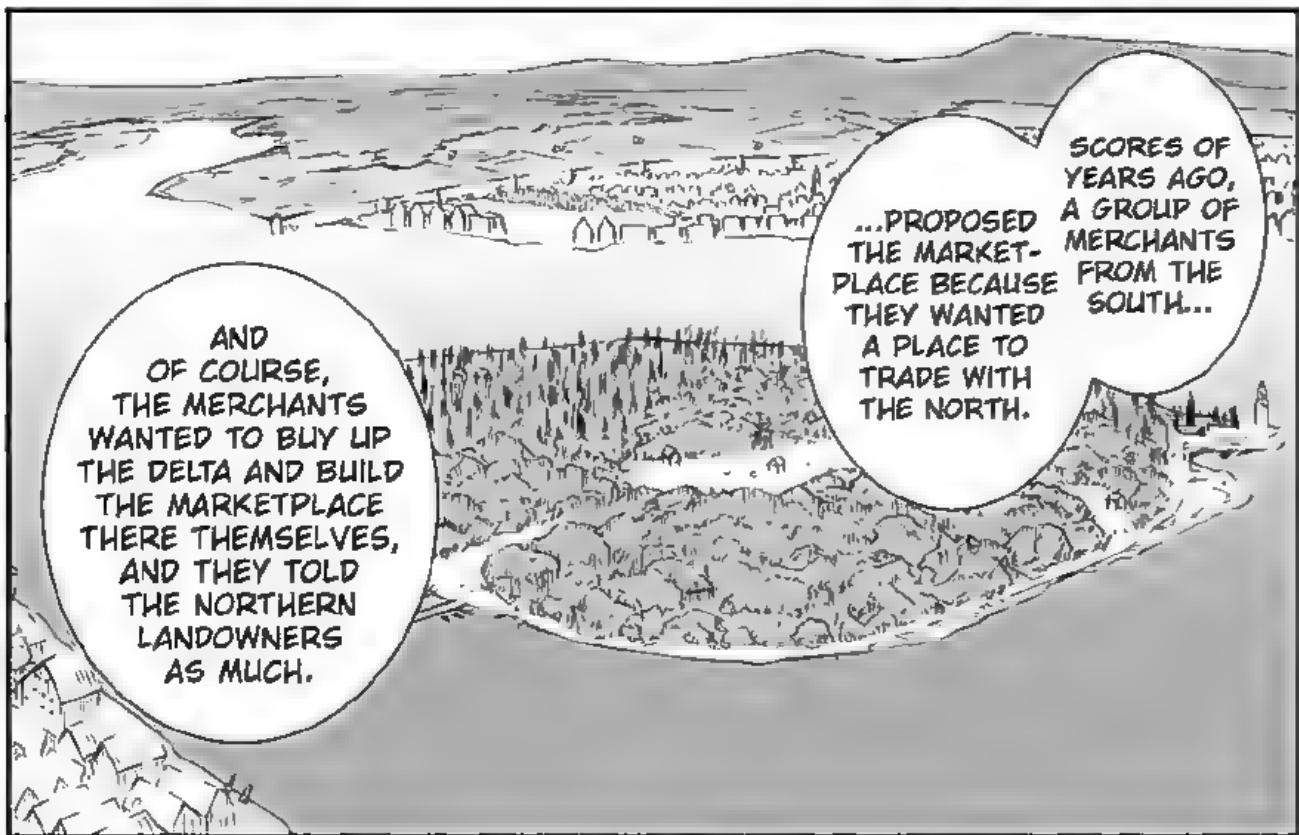
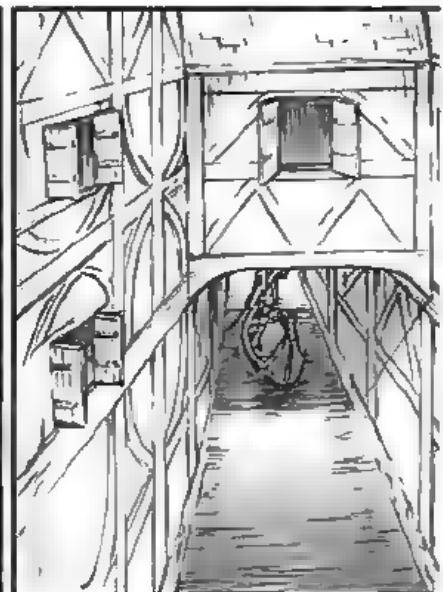
IT DID,
DIDN'T
IT?

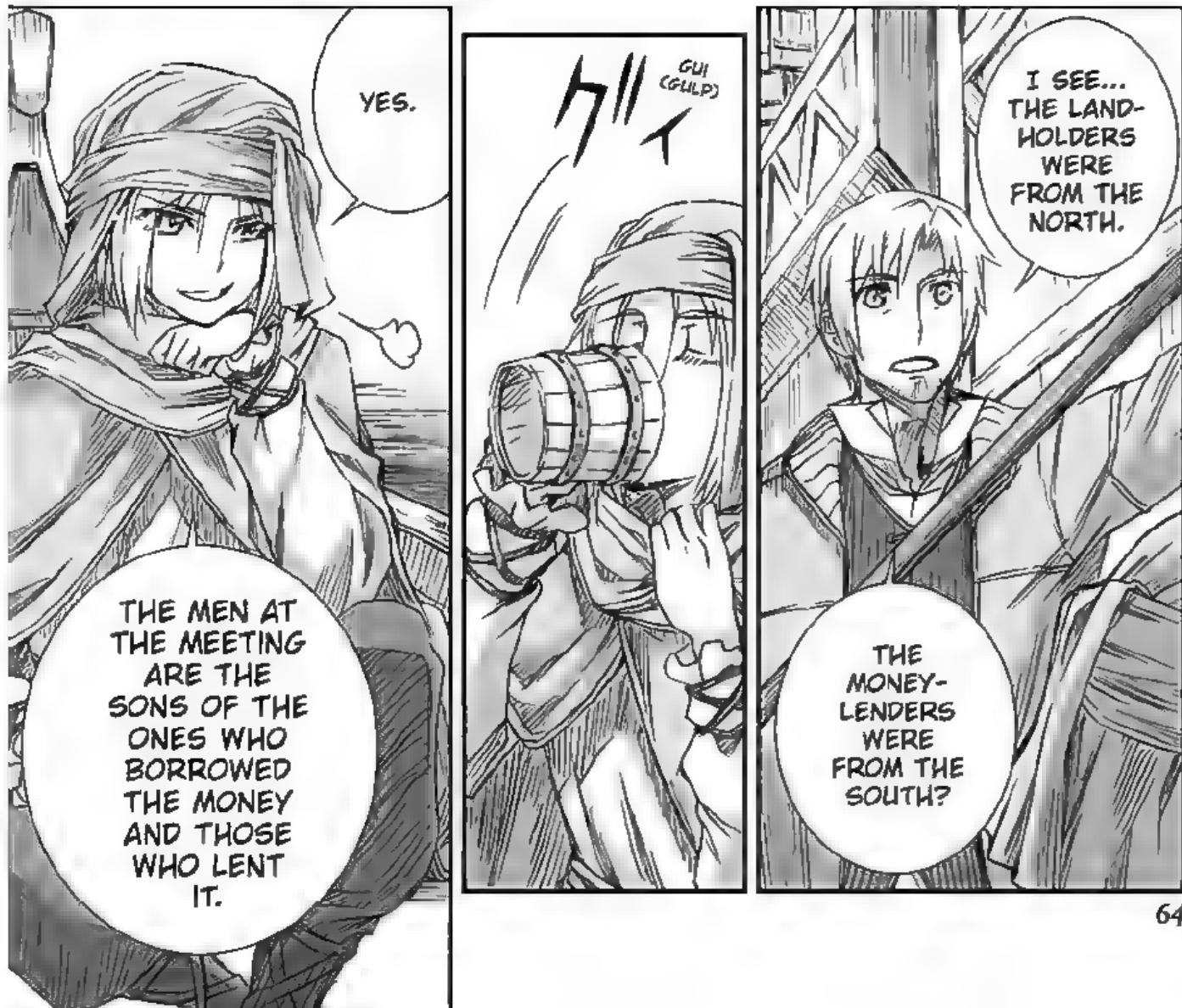
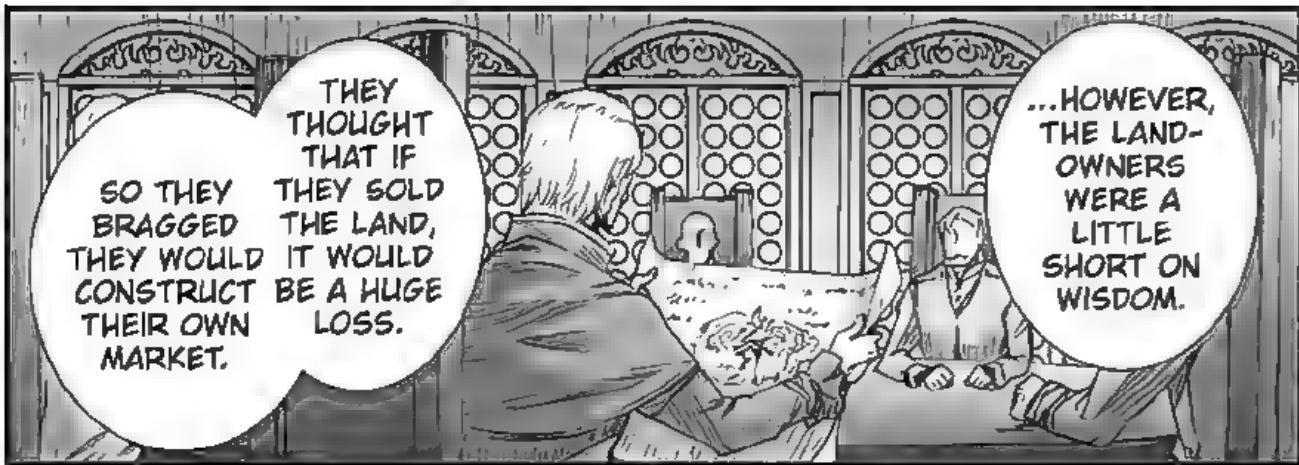


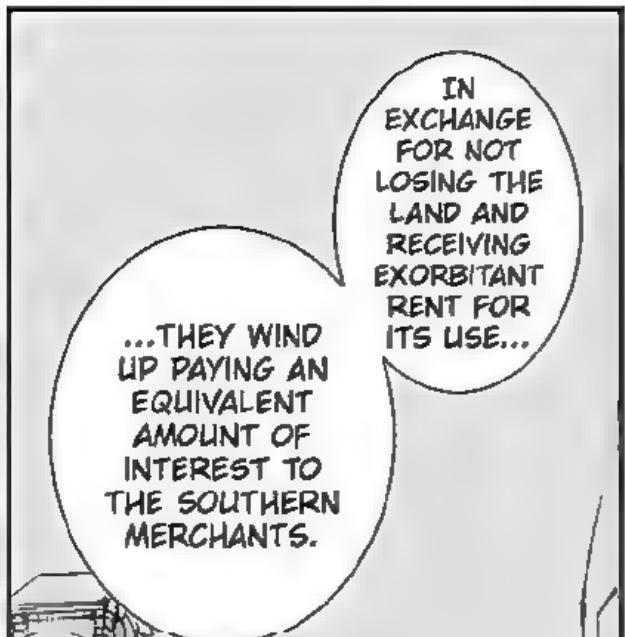










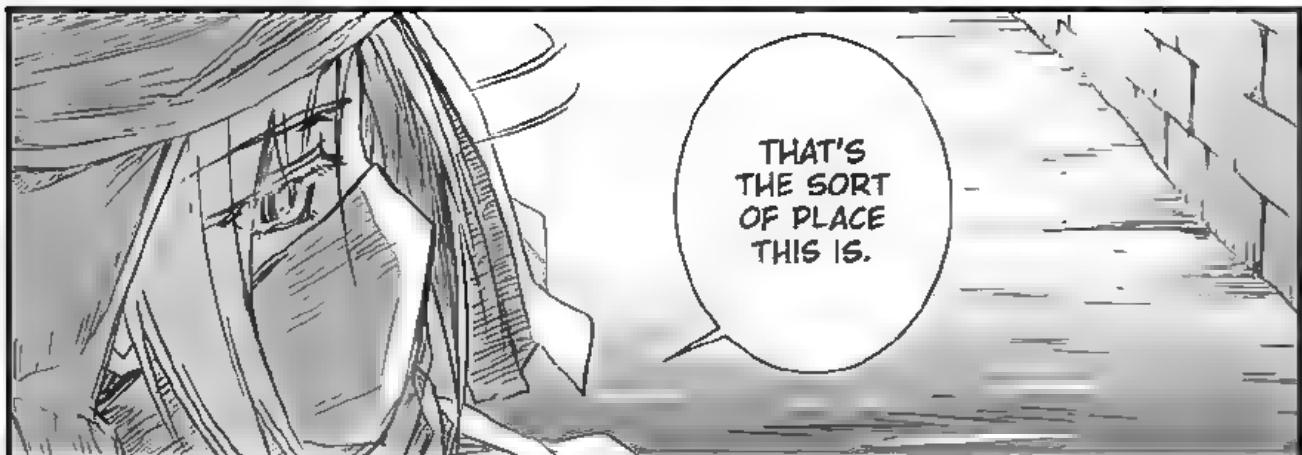


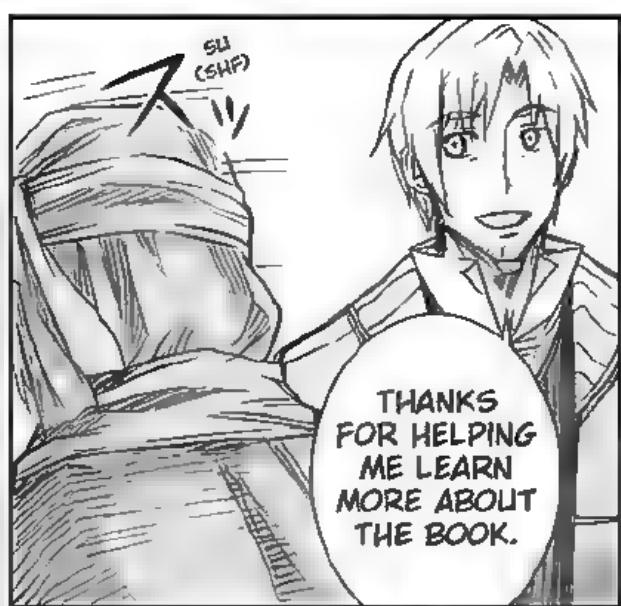
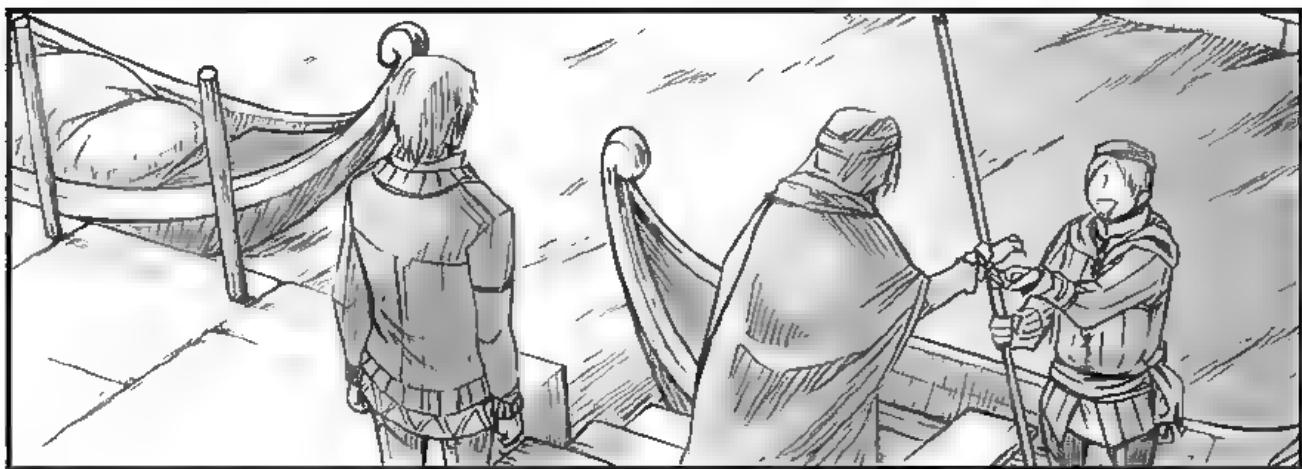


...BUT EVEN
A PLACE THAT
DEALS ONLY
IN COPPER
EXPORTS HAS
ITS PROFIT
SWALLOWED
UP BY THE
POWERS
THAT BE.



AT LEAST BE
A LITTLE MORE
CIRCUMSPECT
ABOUT IT!

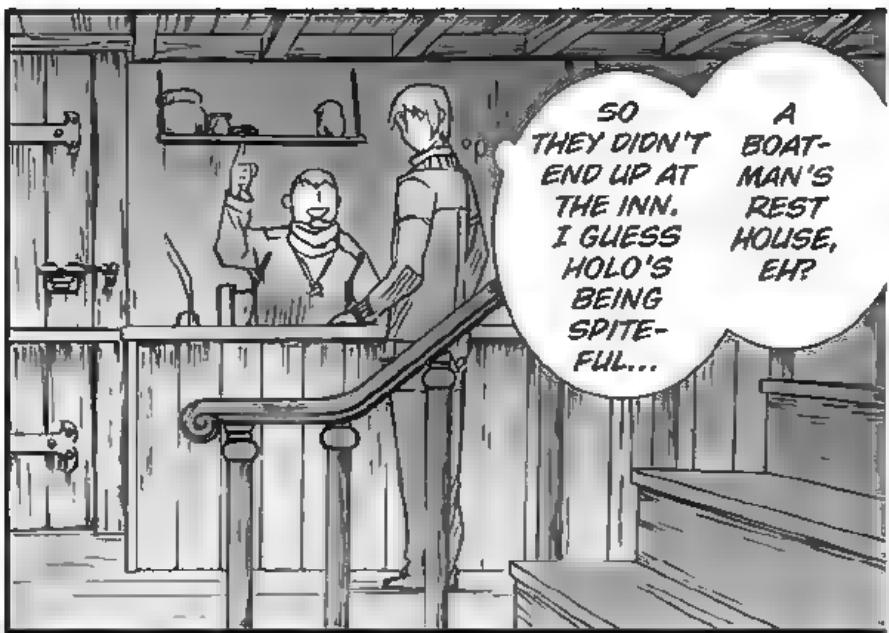




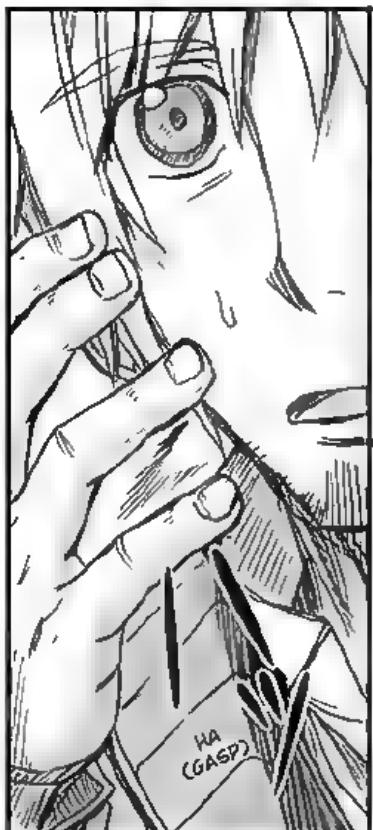
SPICE & WOLF





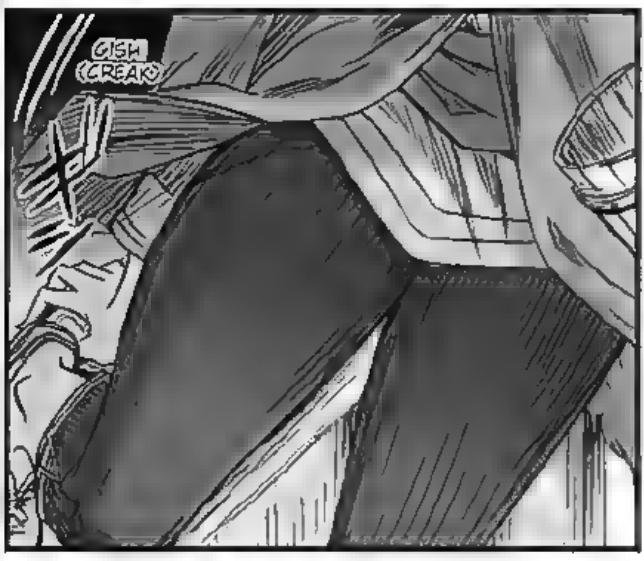


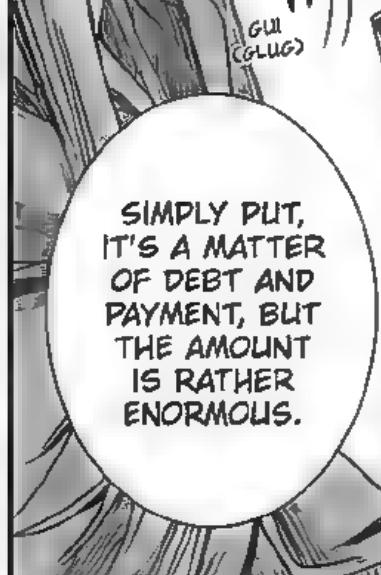


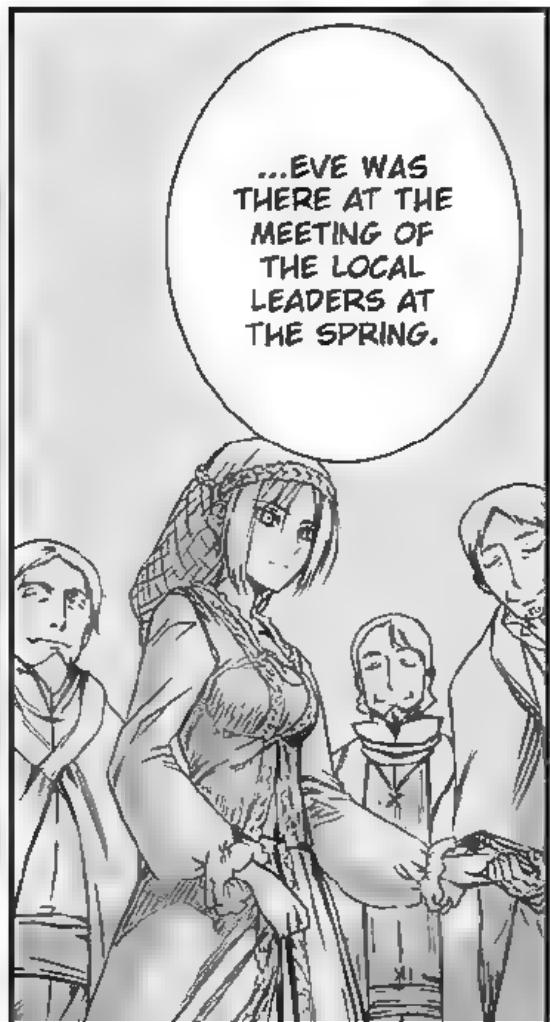




YOU'RE A
CENTURY TOO
YOUNG TO TRY
LYING TO ME.









LISTEN
HERE, YOU.



IF A
MERCHANT
LIKE HER CAN
BE TREATED
LIKE THAT...



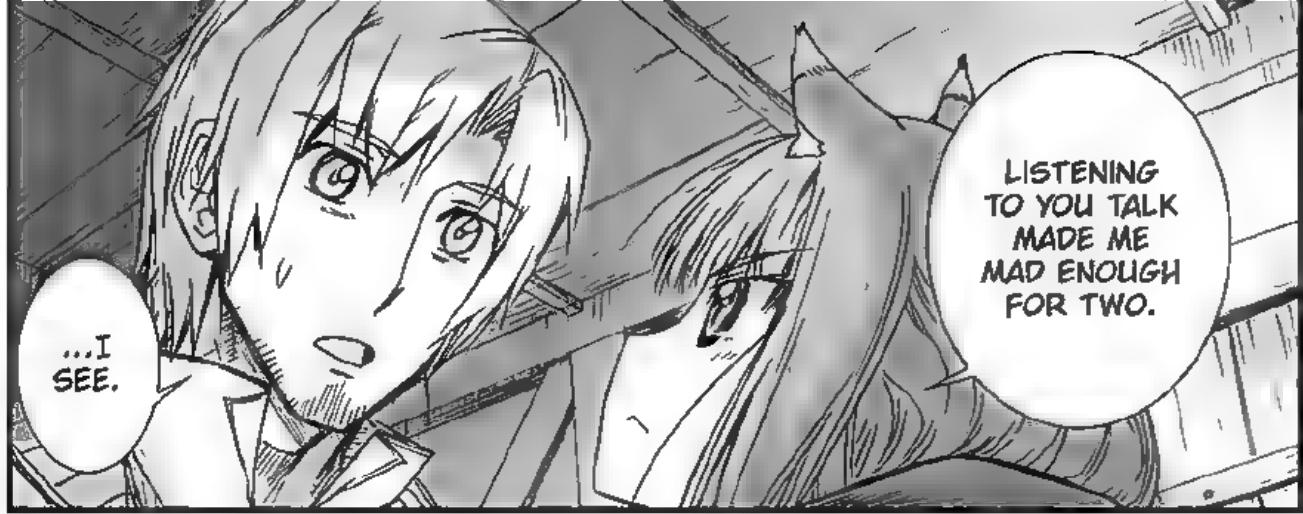
...IT
MAKES ME
WONDER
WHAT'LL
BECOME
OF ME...



—AND IT'S
JUST...



...SAD.



AND AS
FOR THE
LAST...

I WON'T
ARGUE.

WHAT
ARE YOU,
A PUP?

SECONDLY,
DESPAIRING
AT SUCH
A FOOLISH
NOTION?

GISHI
(CREAK)

...MY
FACE?

...WHEN
ON YOUR
FACE—!?

...TO SEE
YOU TURN
TAIL AND
BEHAVE IN A
MANNER SO
UNBECOMING
A FULL-
GROWN
MALE...



...YOUR
FACE SAYS
YOU COULD
GO OFF ON
YOUR OWN
AT ANY
MOMENT.



YOU SPEAK
OF SUCH
WEAKNESS,
AND YET...



BUT IF I LOOKED AS
THOUGH I COULDN'T
CONTINUE ON ALONE,
YOU'D RAIL AT ME
WITHOUT MERCY,
WOULD YOU NOT?



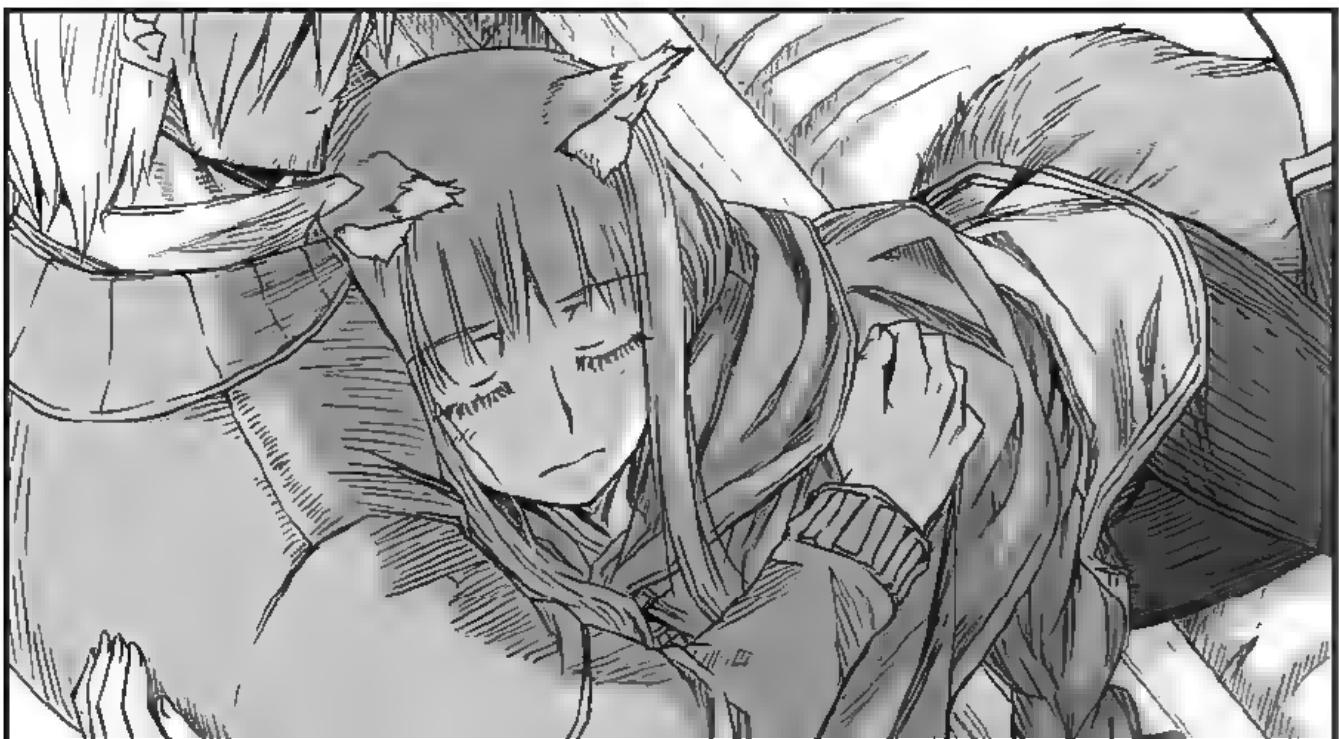
I'D JUST AS
SOON AVOID
THAT.



I'D RAIL
AT YOU,
TOY WITH
YOU, AND
TEASE
YOU!



NATU-
RALLY, I
WOULD!





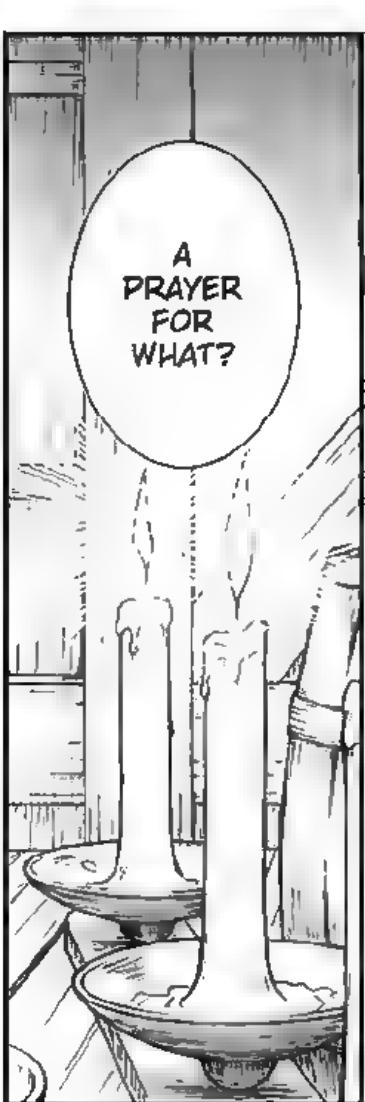




.....STILL,
DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S
STRANGE?

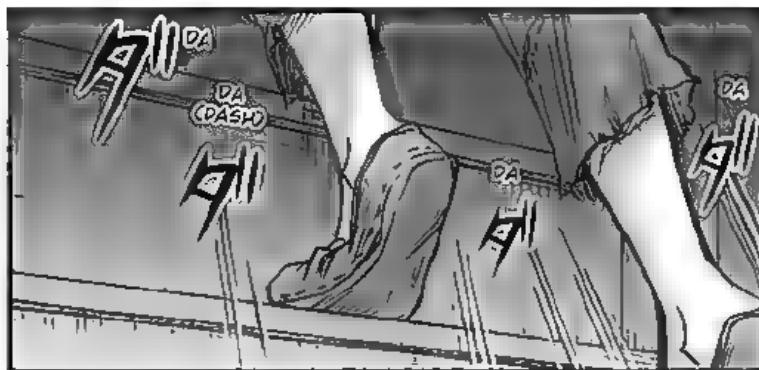


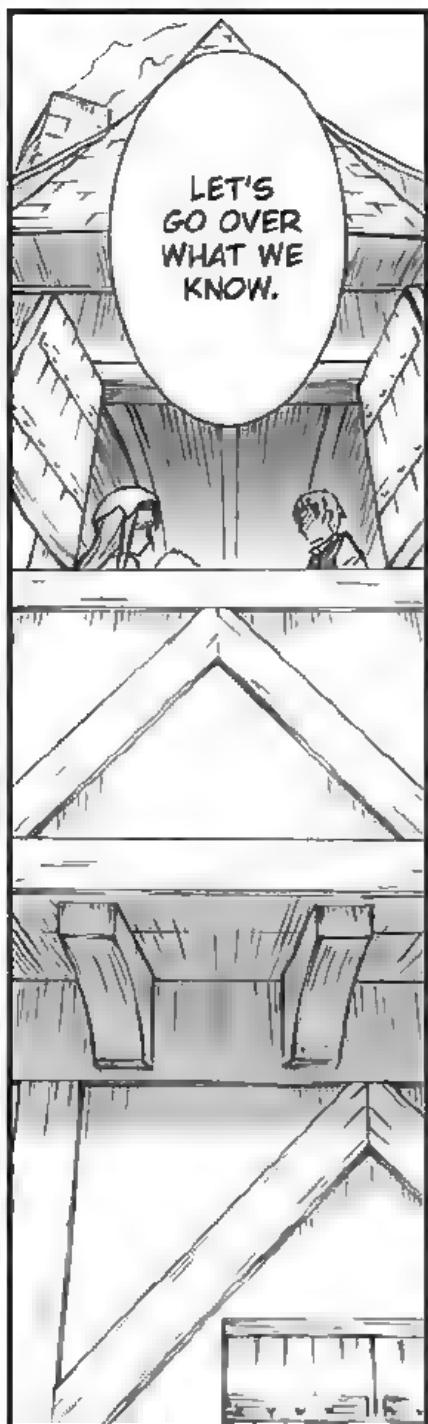
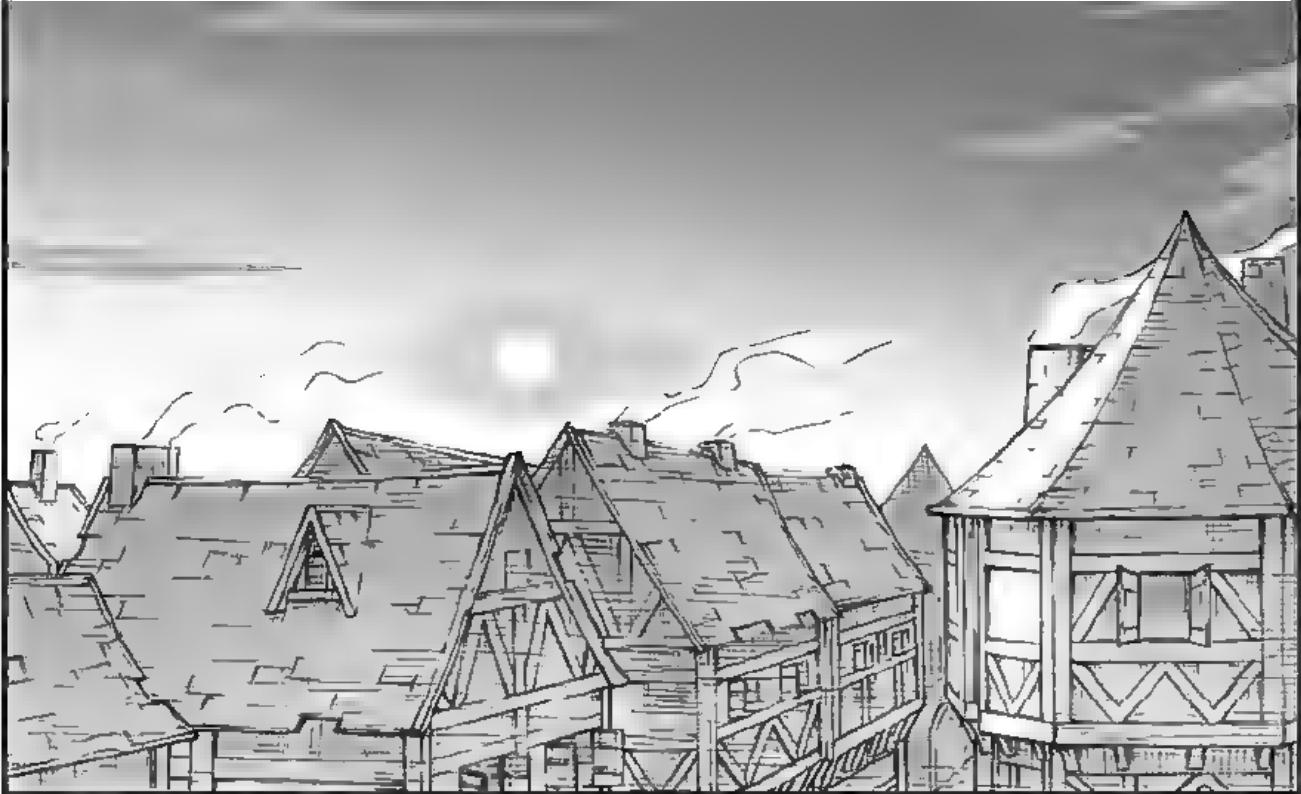
HONESTLY
.....





THAT IT
WILL BE A
BIT LONGER
BEFORE THE
BOY COL
RETURNS
FROM
SHOPPING.

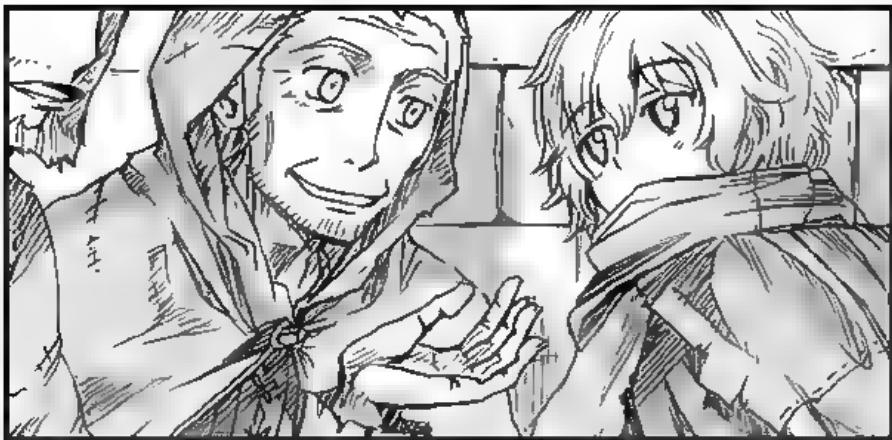








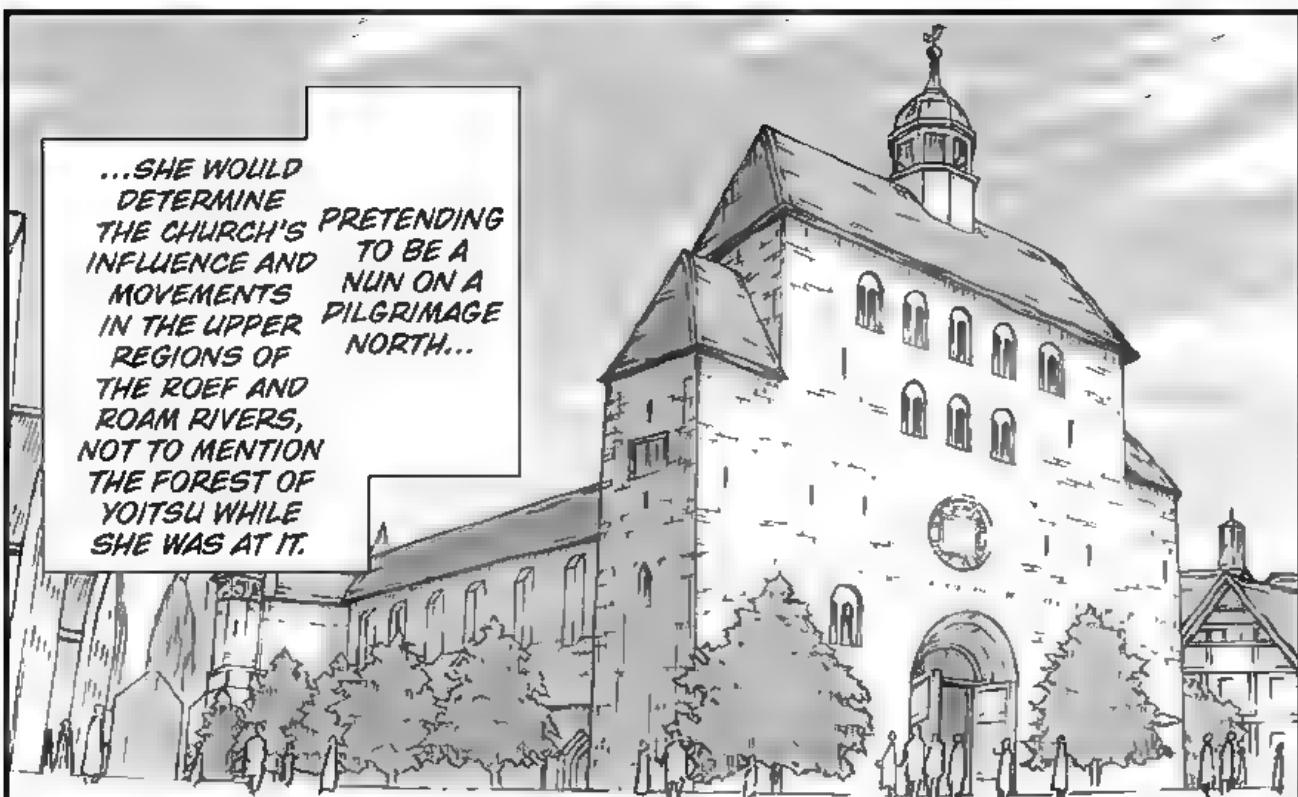




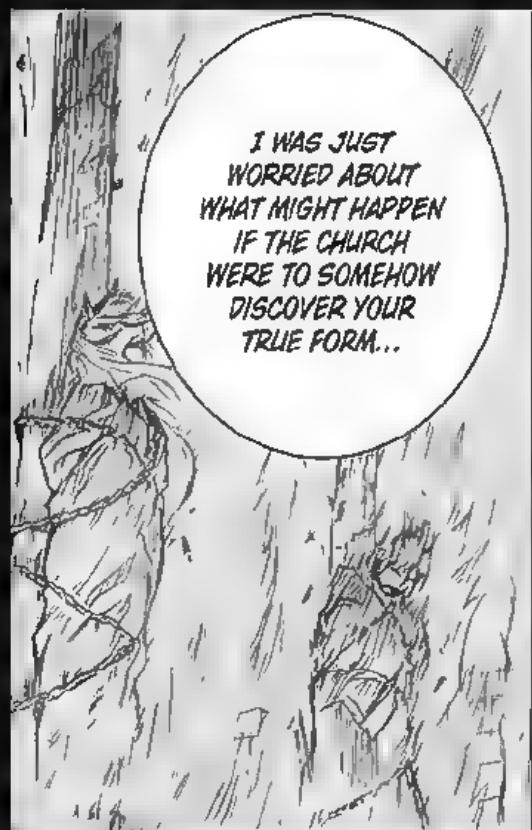
COL WOULD POSE AS A TRAVELING BEGGAR AND HEAD TO THE NORTH SIDE TO FIND OUT WHAT THE OTHER BEGGARS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE JEAN COMPANY.



HOLO WOULD MAKE FOR THE SOUTH-SIDE CHURCH.



...SHE WOULD DETERMINE THE CHURCH'S PRETENDING INFLUENCE AND MOVEMENTS IN THE UPPER REGIONS OF THE ROEF AND ROAM RIVERS, NOT TO MENTION THE FOREST OF YOITSU WHILE SHE WAS AT IT.



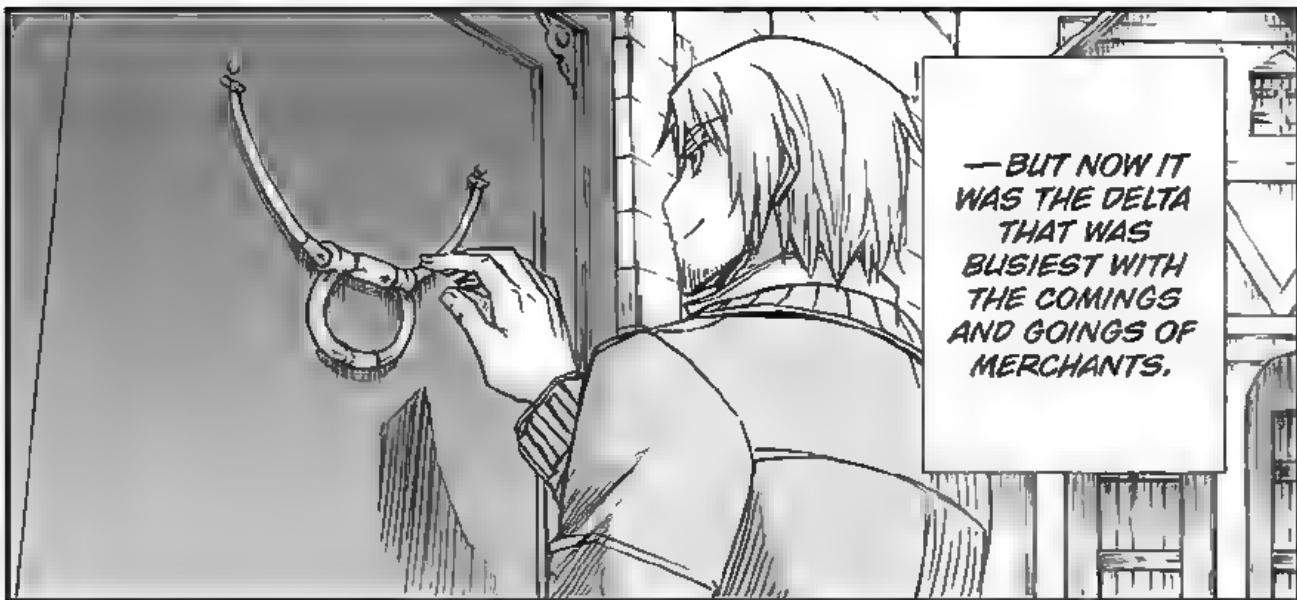
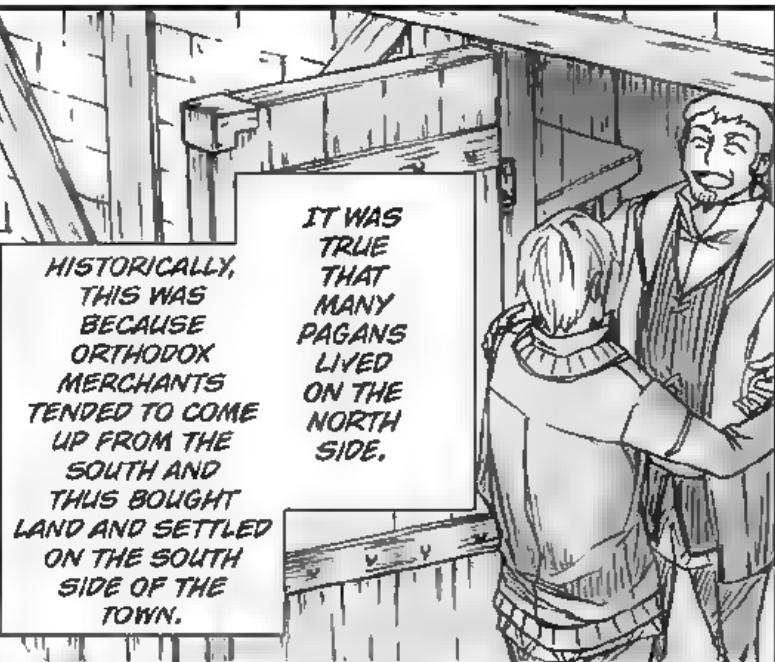








KERUBE HAD CHURCHES ONLY ON THE DELTA AND THE SOUTH SIDE.







OF COURSE
THERE WERE
GUILD MEMBERS
THERE...
DO THEY
CARE WHAT I
WAS PAYING
ATTENTION
TO?



YES,
I SAW
RATHER AN
INTERESTING
SHOW
THERE.



FROM
WHAT I HEARD,
THE LANDOWNERS
OF THE NORTH
SIDE ARE SO
MANY FISH,
FLOPPING
ABOUT ON
LAND.

SO THERE'S
A STING, IS
THERE?

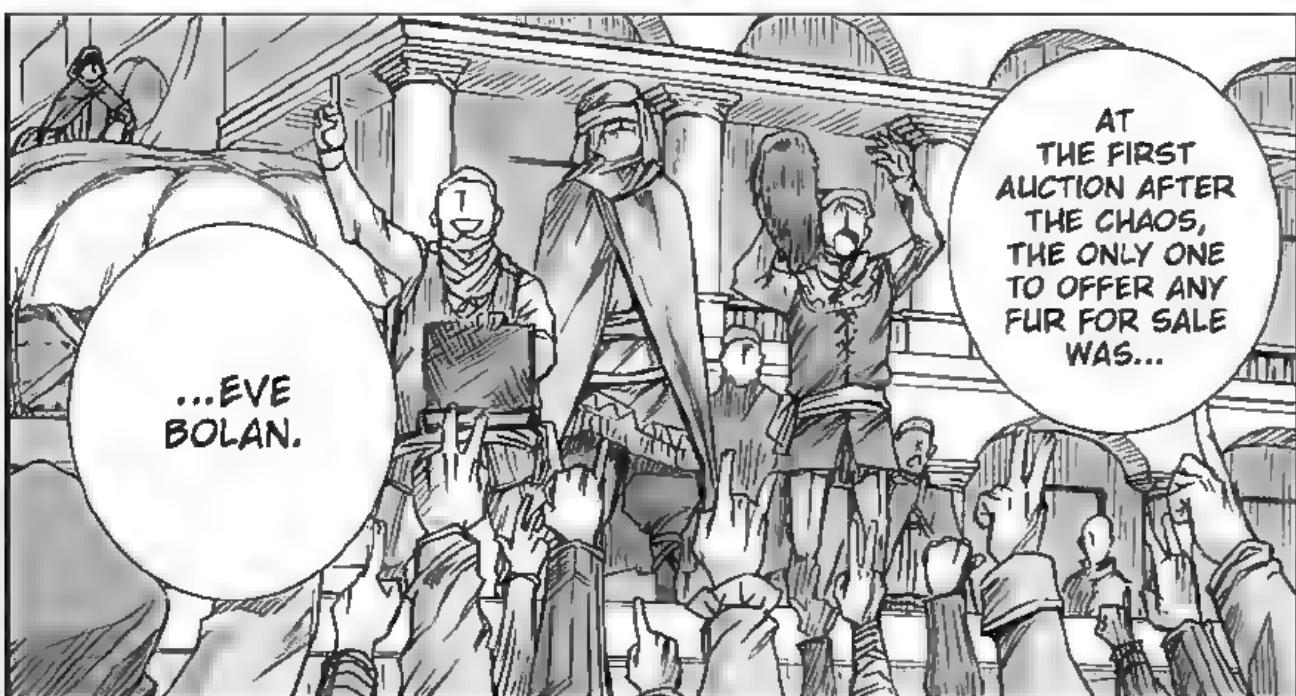
ONE NEVER KNOWS
WHERE THE STING
MAY BE LAID, EVEN
IN A SEEMINGLY
TRANSPARENT
CONVERSATION.

HEH-HEH-HEH.
AN INTERESTING
SHOW, INDEED,
MR. LAWRENCE—
MOST IMPRESSIVE,
THOUGH A RATHER
IMPERMEABLE
DISPLAY,
EVEN FOR A
TRAVELING
MERCHANT...



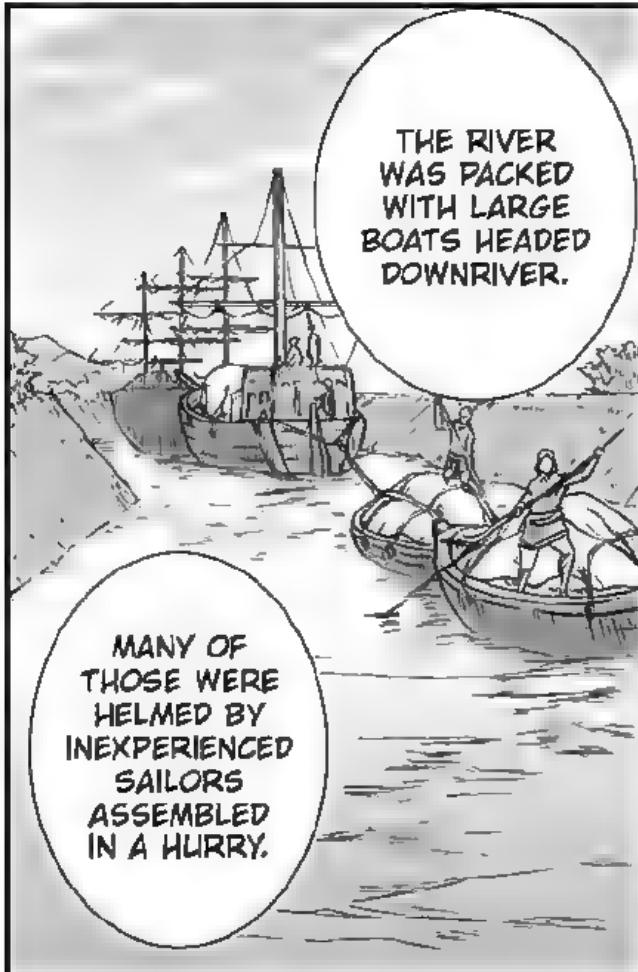
THAT
WOULD BE
TRUE...IF OUR
OPPONENTS
WERE ONLY
THE LAND-
OWNERS.







NORMALLY,
THE RIVER IS
THE FASTEST
WAY TO GET
FURS FROM
LENO'S TO
THE DELTA...







...I MUST
WONDER
AT WHAT
HISTORY
LED YOU
TO DO
BUSINESS
WITH HER.

STILL
.....

I SUPPOSE
YOU'RE HOPING
TO USE MISS
EVE'S CONTACTS
TO DISCOVER
PROFITABLE
INFORMATION?

I DID NOTHING.
SHE APPROACHED
ME.

HERE IN THIS TOWN,
THERE ARE MANY
WHO WISH TO DEAL
WITH EVE BOLAN,
BUT SHE'S UTTERLY
UNAPPROACHABLE.

I'M SURE
ANYONE WHO
CAN GET A
FAVORABLE
RESPONSE
FROM HER
WILL DO
WELL...



IT WAS
NONE OTHER
THAN EVE WHO
WAS CLASHING
WITH THE
SOUTH SIDE'S
COIN PURSE
MERCENARIES
AT THE
"SPRING OF
GOLD,"
RIGHT?



...AND
THEN WAS
UNABLE TO
PAY THEM
BACK.



SHE
INGRATIATED
HERSELF WITH
THE HEADMEN,
USED THEM,
PROFITED...



—AND ONLY
NOW AM I
STARTING TO
UNDERSTAND
WHY.



OR
PERHAPS
SHE SIMPLY
DIDN'T
WANT
TO.



HOHH?

COME TO
THINK OF IT
NOW, I'M NOT
CERTAIN WHAT
SHE HAD IN
MIND, BUT I'M
A TRAVELING
MERCHANT,
FIRST AND
FOREMOST.

PERHAPS
SHE THOUGHT
SHE COULD
USE ME BY
GIVING ME
A BIT OF
INFORMATION.

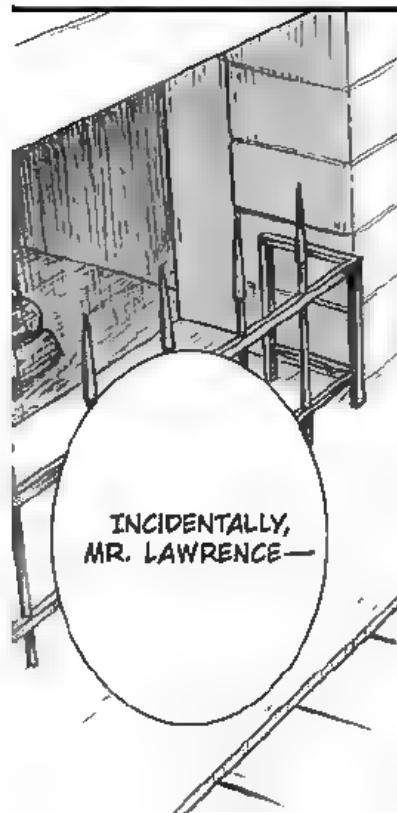
QUITE
RIGHT.

...IS TO COLLECT
INFORMATION ON
THE "FOREST
OF YOITSU"
UP NORTH.

BUT THE
MAIN REASON
I'VE COME TO
KERUBE...

YOU'RE SUCH
A BUSY MAN,
MR. KIEMAN,
I FELT I
COULDN'T
BOther YOU
WITH THIS
BEFORE.

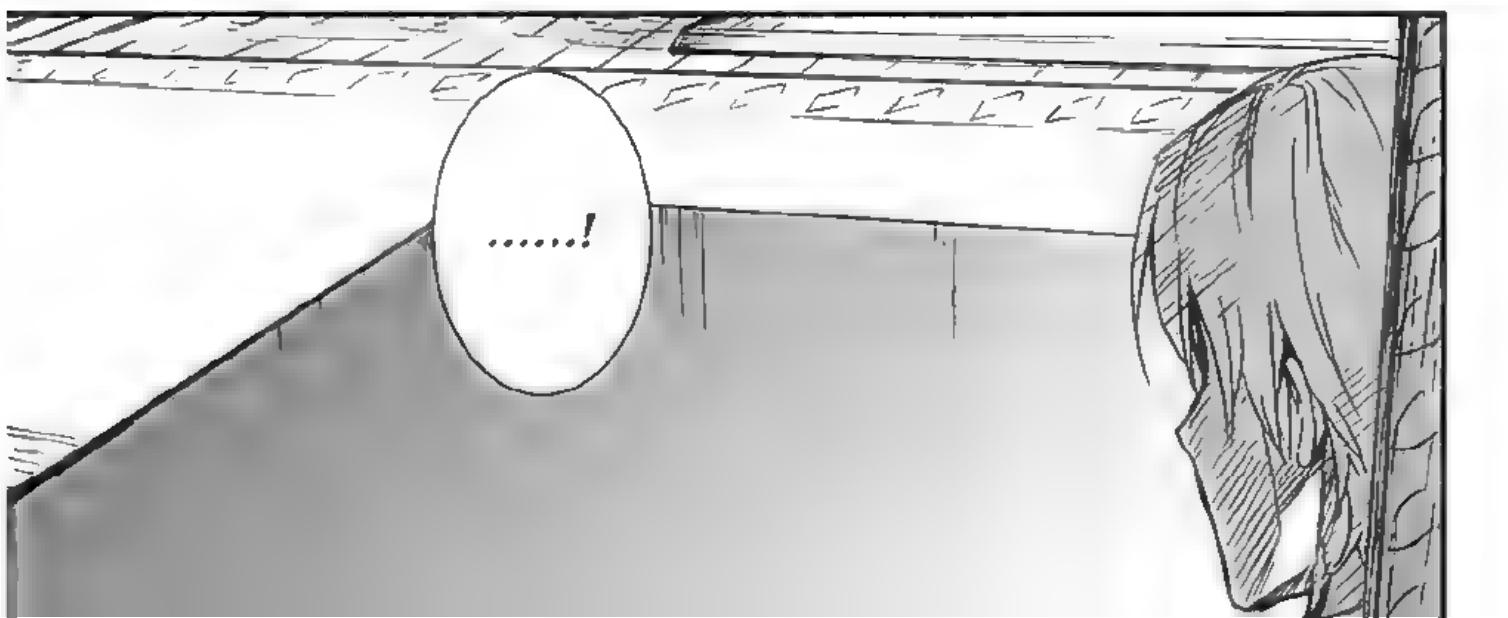






EVE
BOLAN OR
THE TRADE
GUILD—

YES?



.....!



WHICH
IS YOUR
PRIORITY?



...THE
GUILD...OF
COURSE.

ER,
WELL...





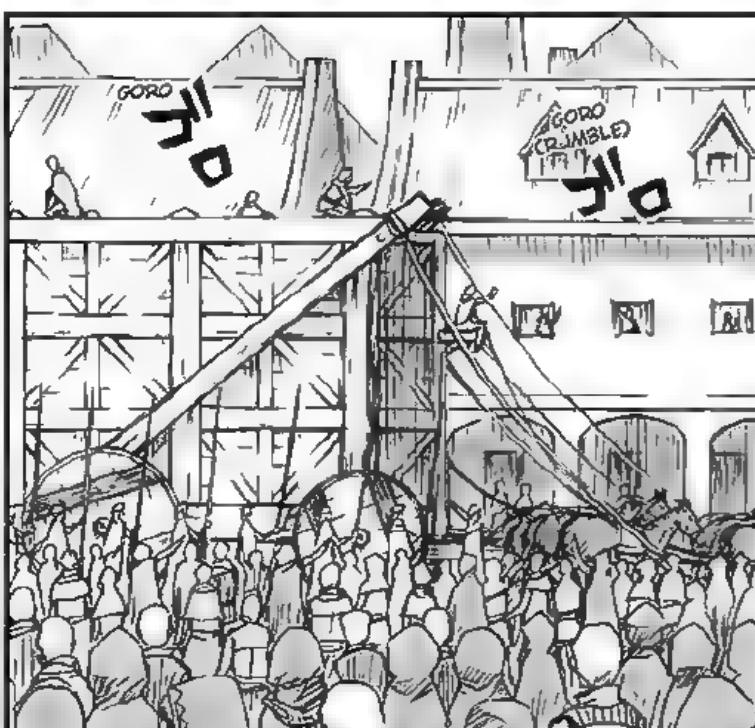
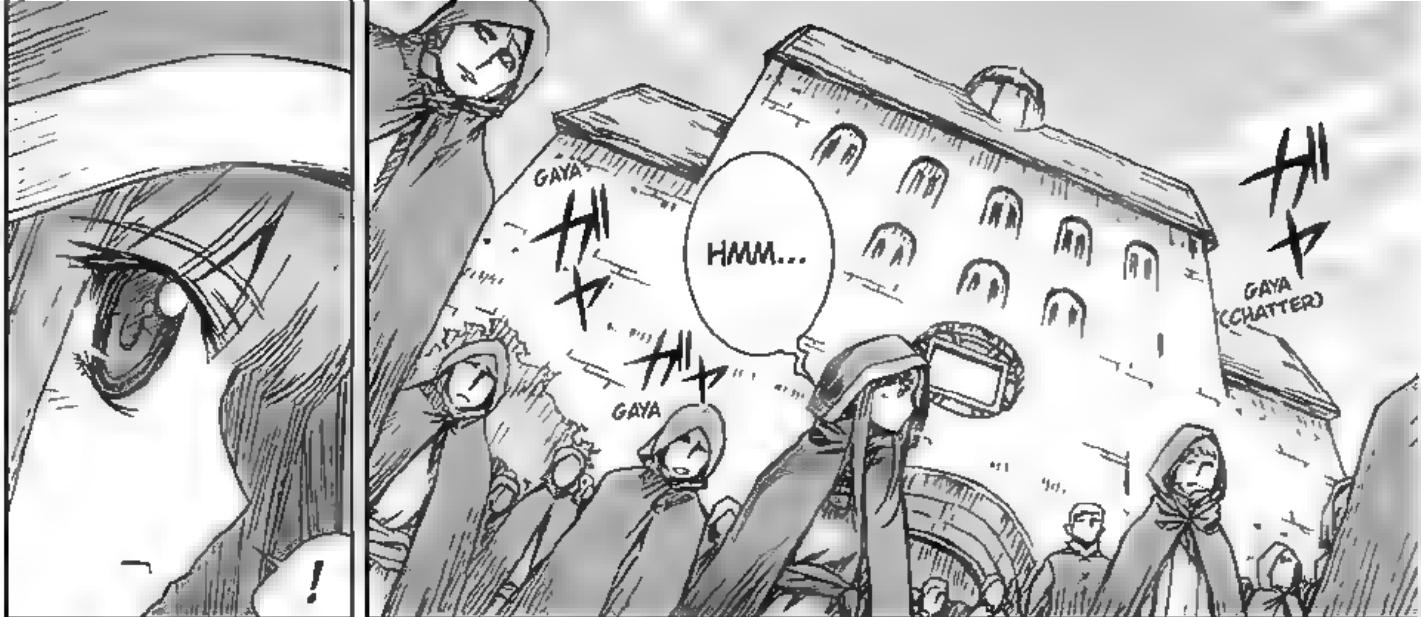


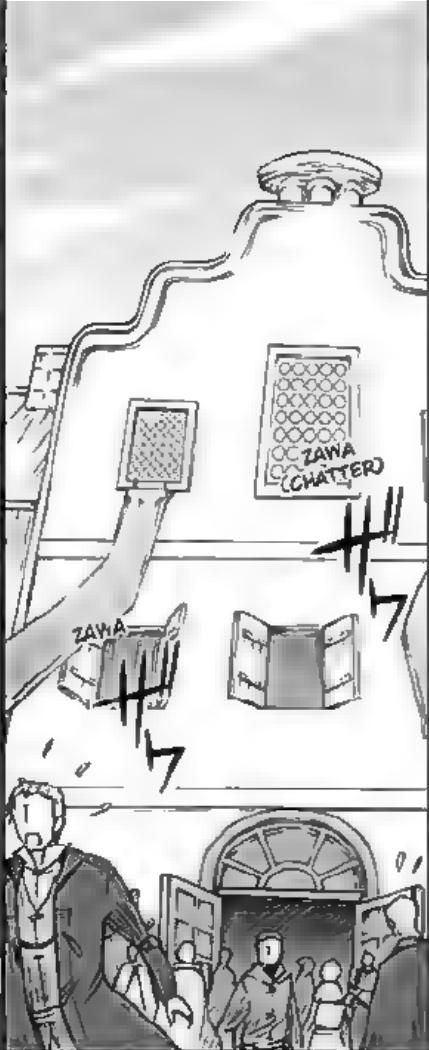
SPICE & WOLF

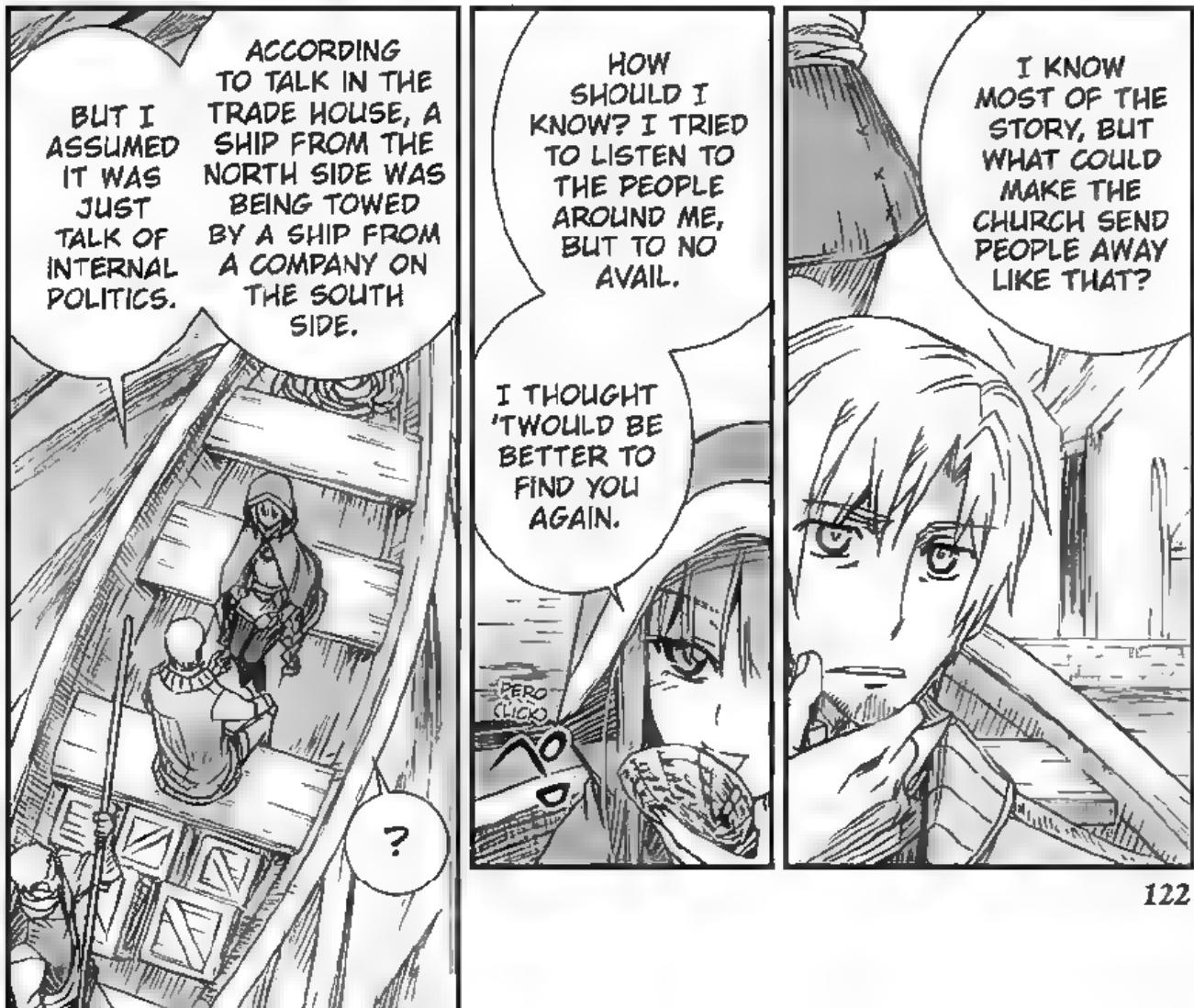


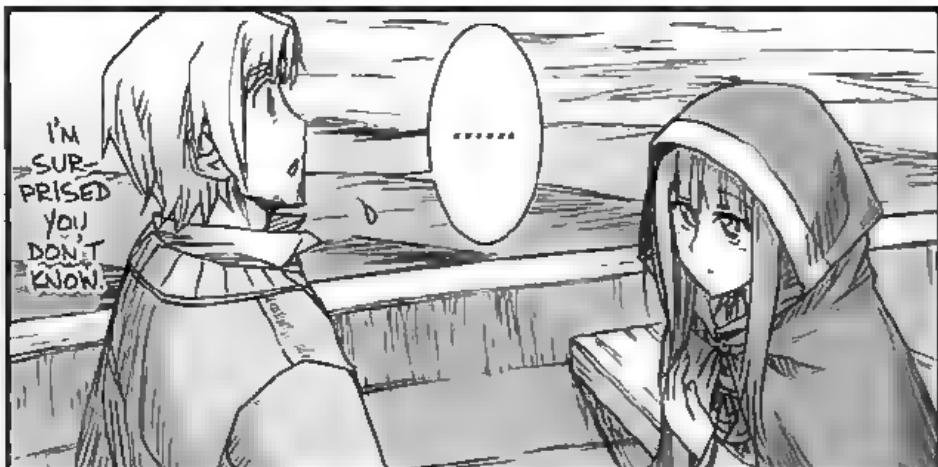














AND
THERE'S
AN OLD
LEGEND
ABOUT
THEM...



AROUND ITS
NORTHERN
MOUTH IS A
REEF WHERE
THERE WERE
CONSTANT
SHIPWRECKS.

THE SEA
IMMEDIATELY
NEXT TO US
IS KNOWN AS
THE WINFIEL
STRAIT.



MERMAIDS
ARE HUMAN
FROM THE
WAIST UP,
BUT BELOW
THAT, THEY
HAVE THE
TAILS OF
FISH.



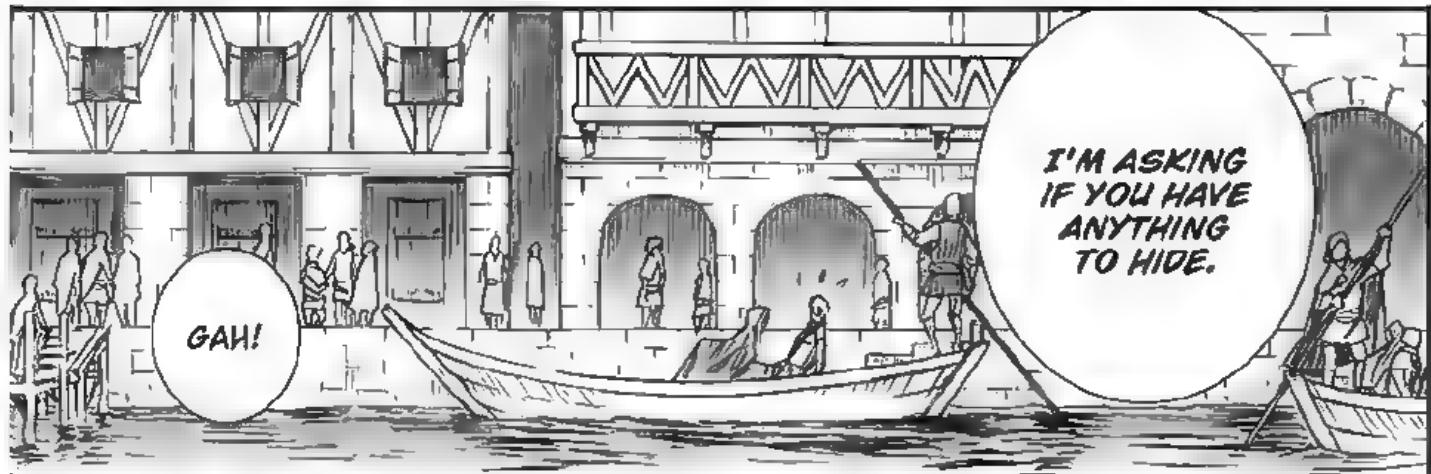
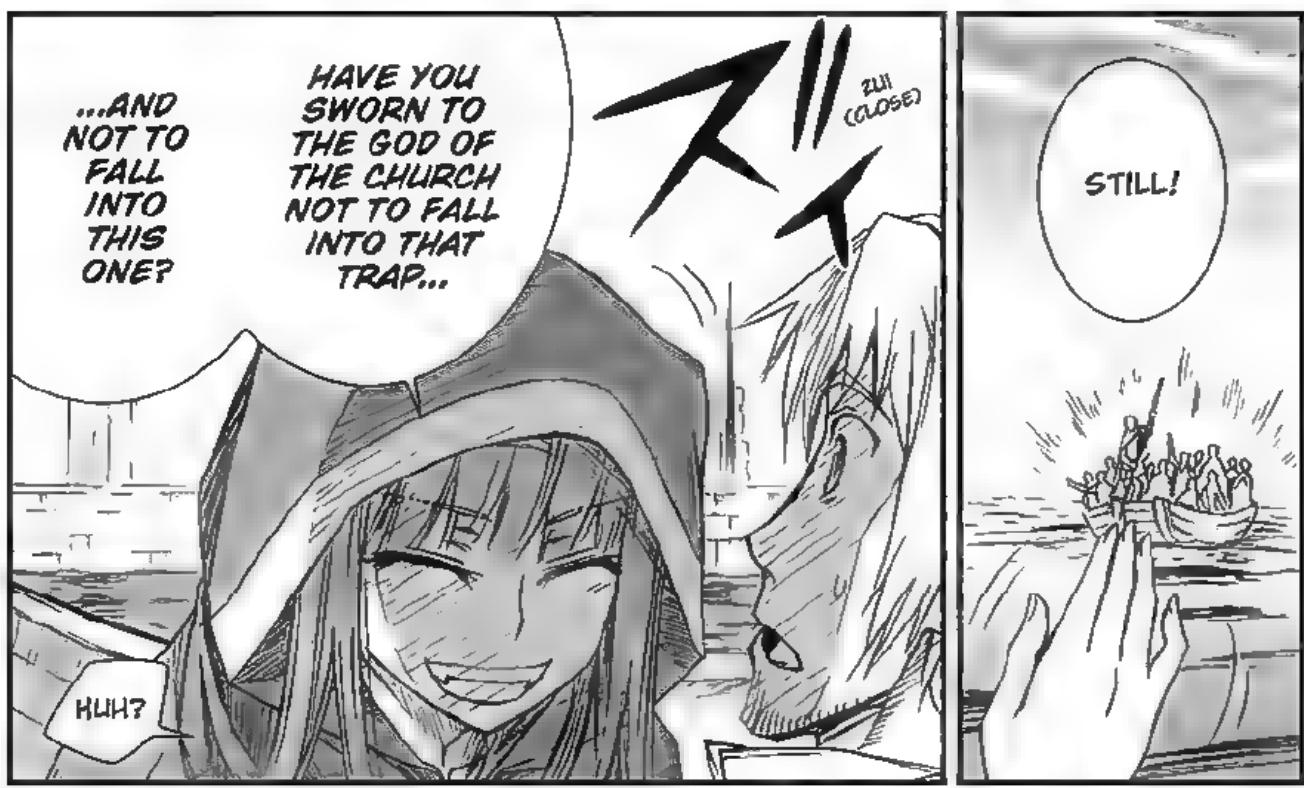
BUT
WHAT SORT
OF WOMEN SIT
ON WAVE-
POUNDED
ROCKS LIKE
THAT, YOU
ASK?

...THAT
WOMEN WITH
VOICES OF
UNEARTHLY
BEAUTY SING
ENCHANTED SONGS
FROM THAT REEF,
CAUSING SAILORS
TO LOSE THEIR
WAY AND WRECK
THEIR SHIPS
...



HUMAN
MALES
SURELY
ARE EASY
TO FOOL.

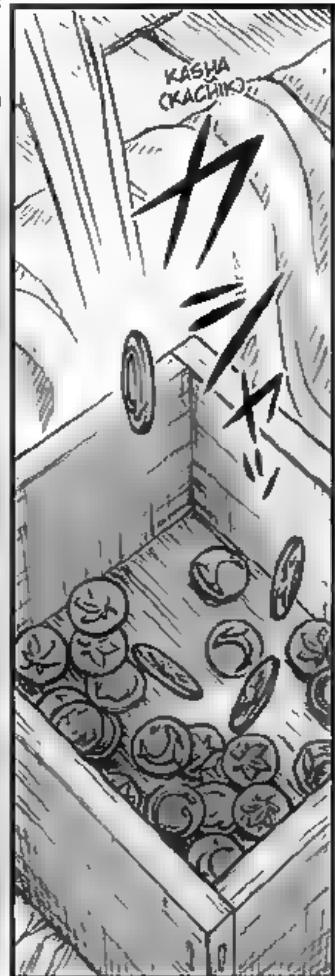
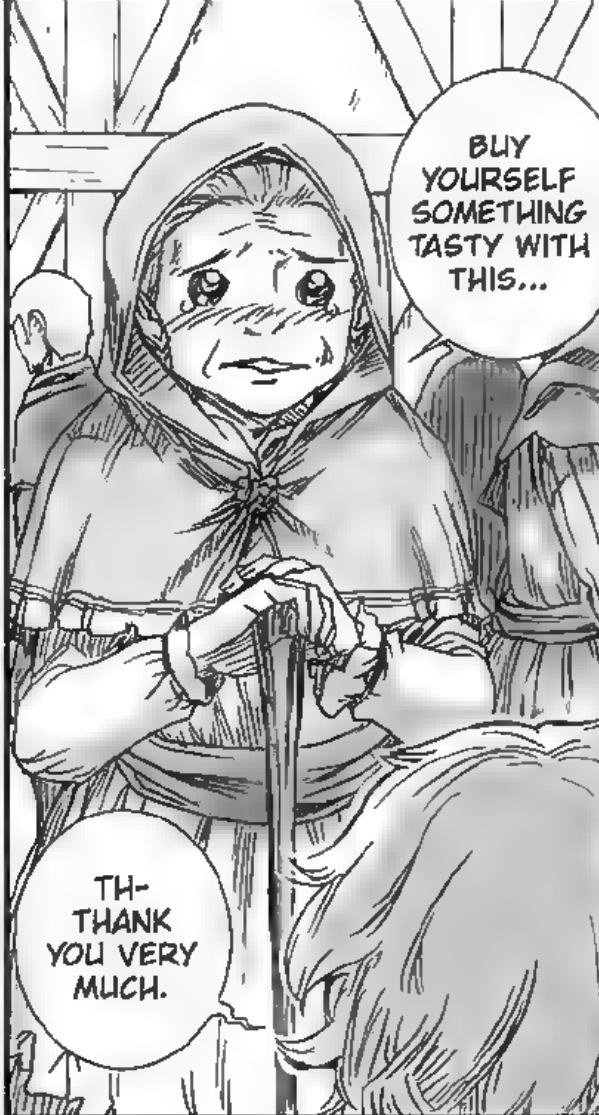
HMPH.

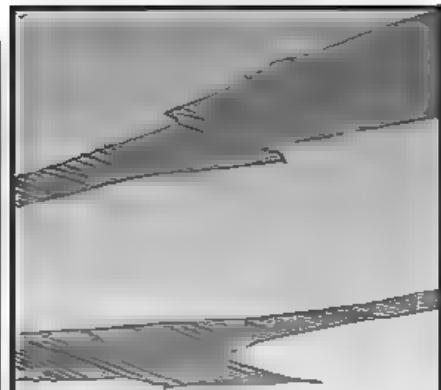


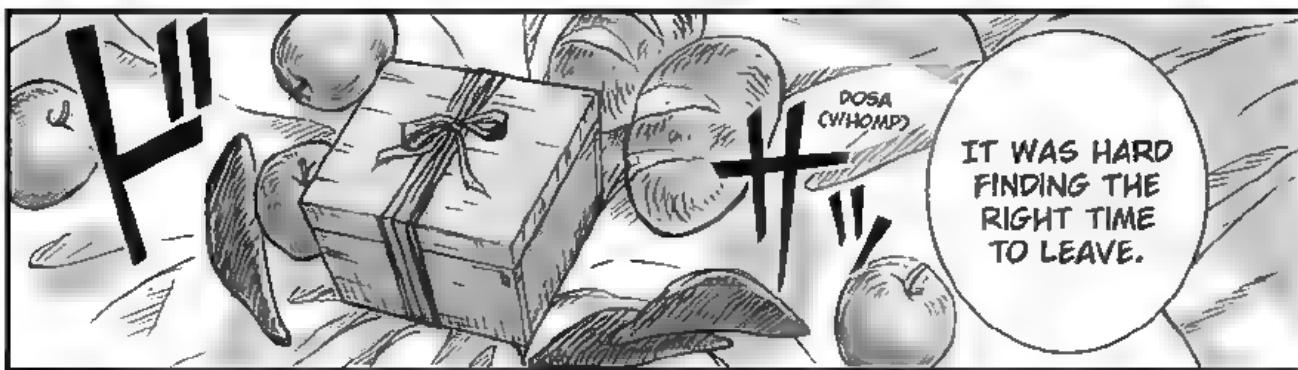












THEN
MAYHAP
THAT FEAST
WAS MEANT
TO COURT
US.

I SEE...
SO THE JEAN
COMPANY IS AS
WE THOUGHT
THEY WERE.

ACCORD-
ING TO
WHAT
KIEMAN
SAID—

...REYNOLDS
MAY WELL
BE PRETTY
CLOSE TO
IT.

QUITE
LIKELY.
IN WHICH
CASE, AS
FAR AS
THE BOOK
GOES...

IT SEEMS
EVE ONLY
SECRETLY
NEGOTIATES
WITH THOSE
WHO CAN MAKE
THE GREATEST
PROFIT IN THAT
PARTICULAR
MOMENT.

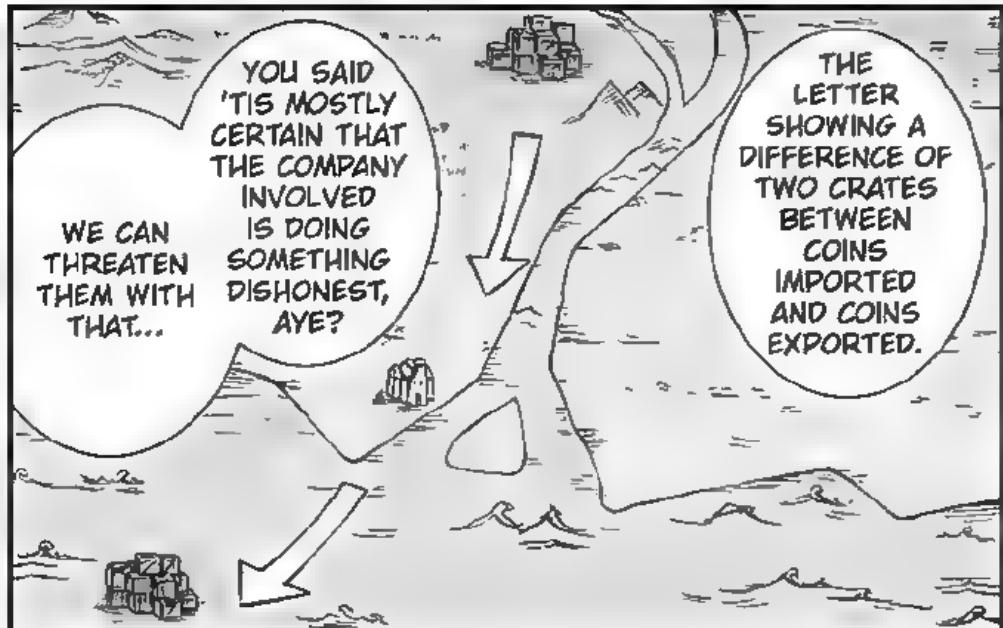
...IF YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR
THAT VIXEN,
SHE HASN'T
RETURNED
SINCE
YESTERDAY.





STILL, NOW THAT WE'VE RECOGNIZED THE SITUATION...







SFX: KUSHKA (CRUFFLE)





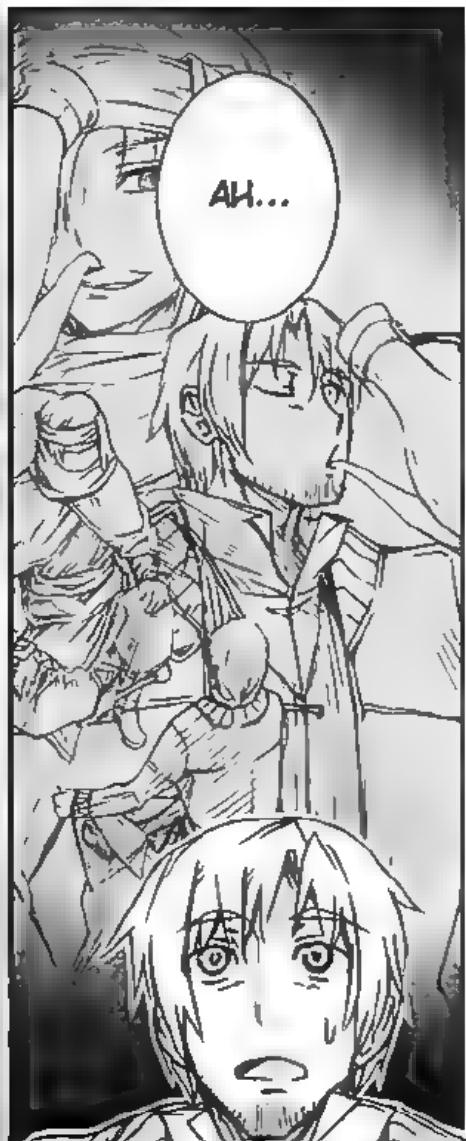


WE
NEED BUT
SEDUCE
HER.



SFX: BIKU (JOLT)







ALL
DONE!

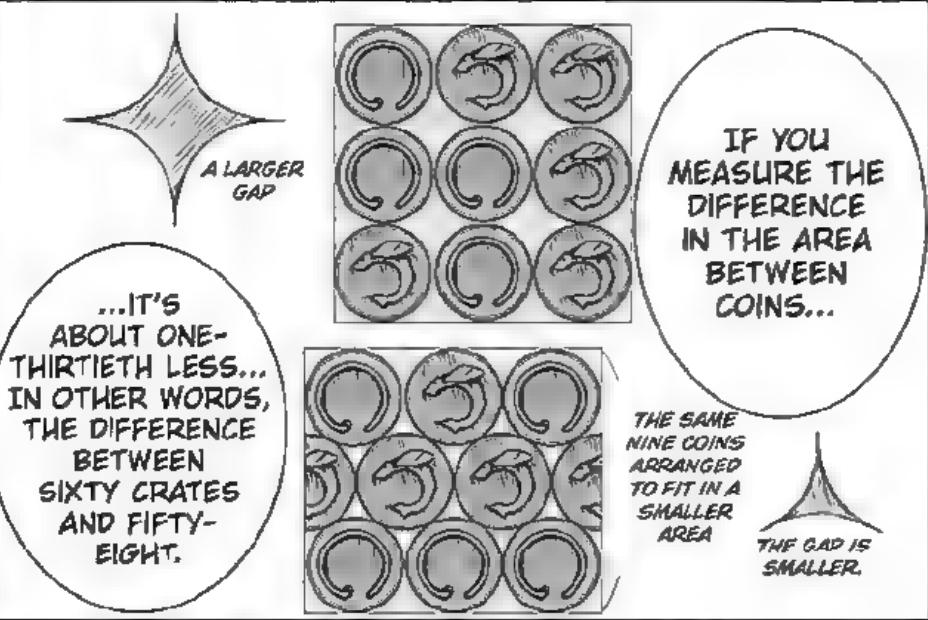
...YOU
CAN PACK
MORE COINS
INTO IT.

DEPENDING
ON HOW YOU
LINE THEM UP
IN THE BOX...

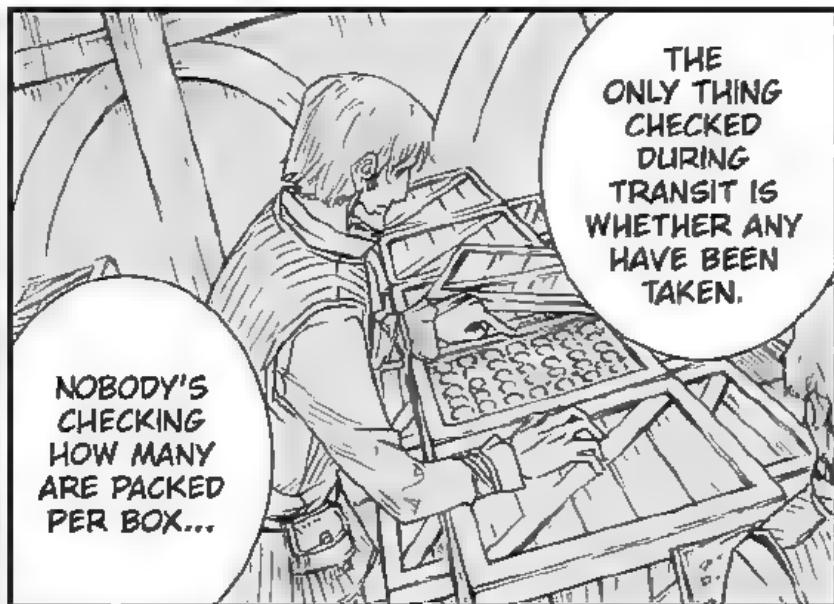
'TIS SO
SIMPLE...

AMAZING
...

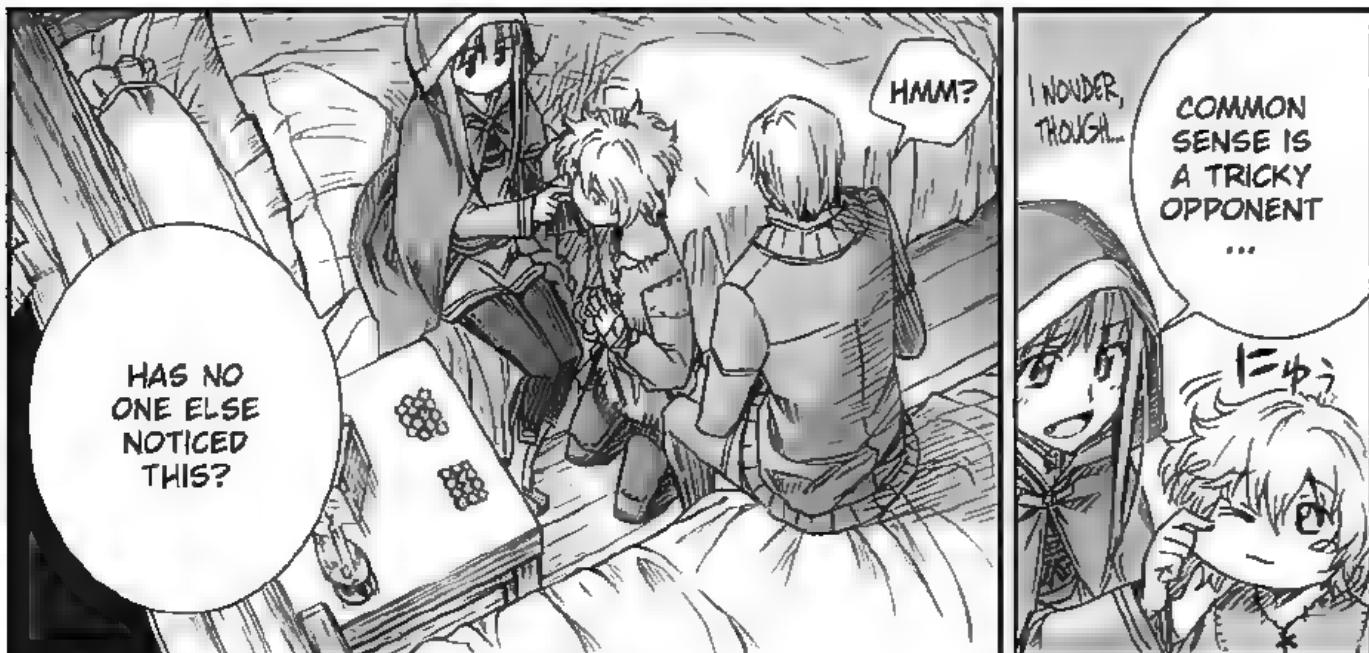
IF THEY WERE TOLD TO PACK THE CRATES TIGHTLY, NO ONE WOULD THINK TO CHECK EXACTLY HOW THEY WERE PACKED DURING EXPORT.



TAXATION GOES BY THE NUMBER OF CRATES, AS DO TRANSPORT FEES.



HAS NO ONE ELSE NOTICED THIS?





IF YOU DID THIS FOR YEARS, SURELY YOU'D EVENTUALLY MEET SOMEONE ELSE WHO KNOWS THE TRICK?

I'LL AGREE THAT COL IS A BRIGHT LAD, BUT THERE ARE MANY BRIGHT PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.



HMM?

NO, THERE'S SOMETHING VERY PARTICULAR NECESSARY TO NOTICE THIS.



YES. ONLY AFTER WE KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE EXPORT AND IMPORT CAN WE BEGIN TO SUSPECT FOUL PLAY.

EVEN SOMEONE WHO LIVES CAUTIOUSLY CAN'T INSPECT EVERYTHING.



THE MANIFEST, RIGHT?



IT'S TRUE
THAT IF THIS
COMES TO
LIGHT, THE
JEAN COMPANY
WILL EITHER
HAVE TO PAY
PENALTIES
OR LOSE
CREDIBILITY.

HE'S
REDUCING
THE NUMBER OF
BOXES SHIPPED
BY TWO AND
PROFITING VIA
THE REDUCED
TAXES AND
TRANSPORT
COSTS.

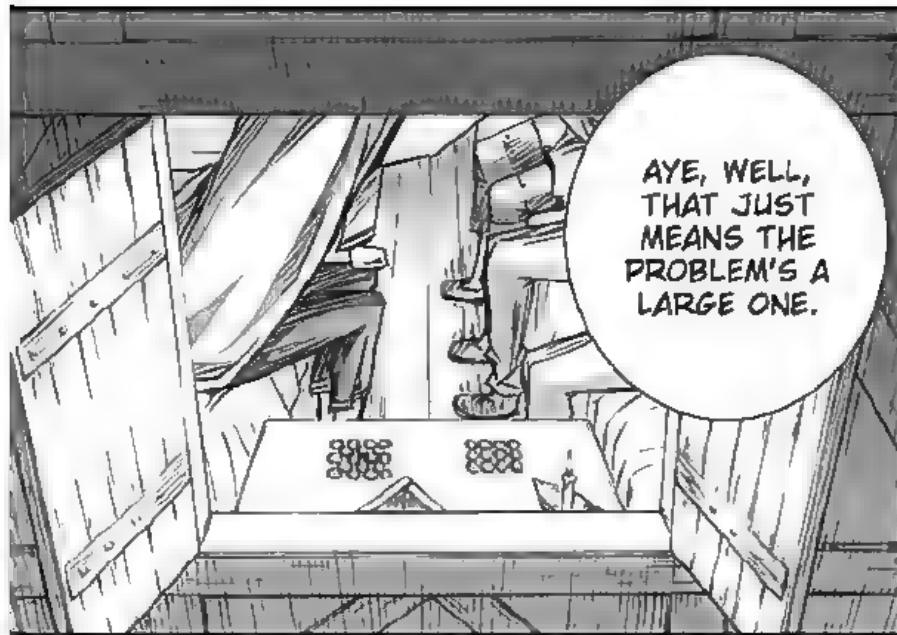
IT MIGHT'VE
BEEN JUST
THE RIGHT
WEAPON TO
USE IF THEY
WERE ONLY
CHASING
THE BOOK
FOR FUN.

THAT'S
IT.
YES.

BUT THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THAT
PENALTY AND
THE PROFIT
FROM THE
BOOK IS TOO
GREAT...
AYE?

BUT...

WAHAHA
(SMILE)

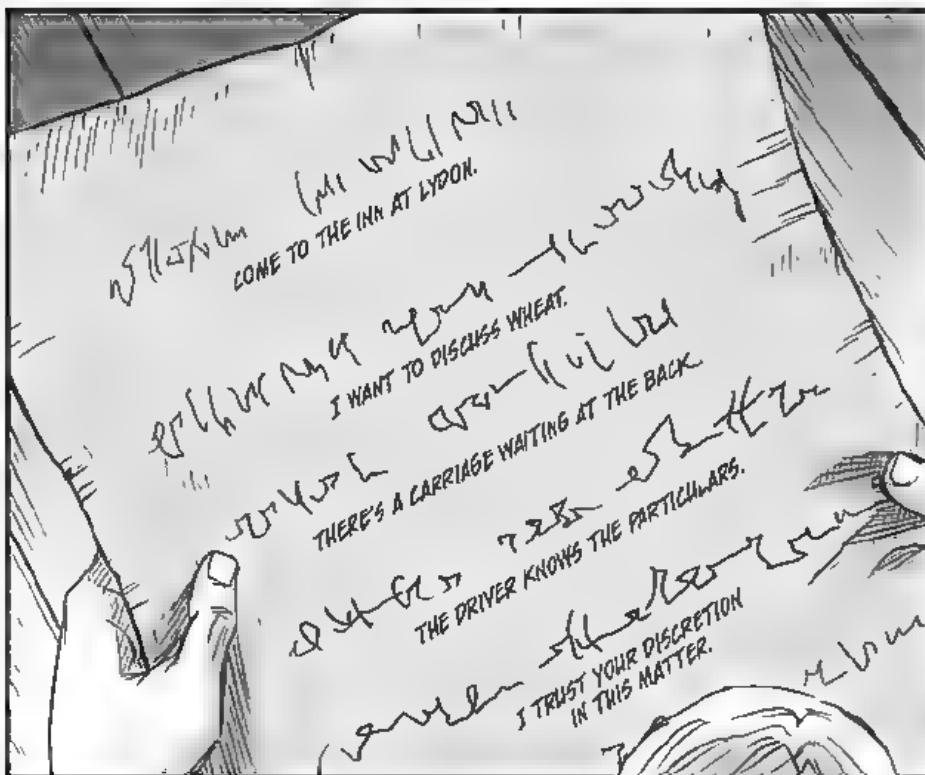




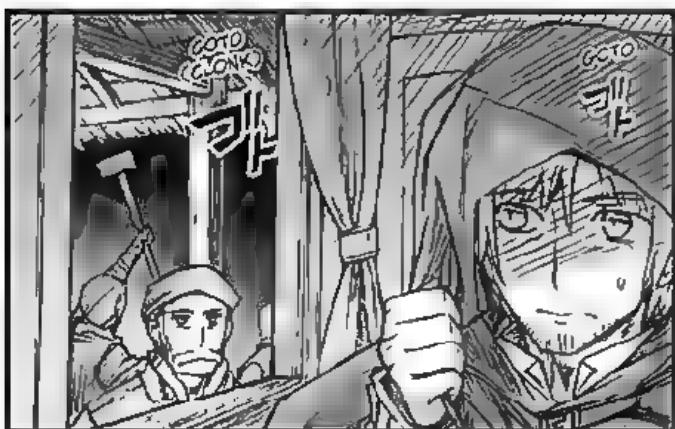
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS PLACE IS
LIKE EVE'S BASE
OF OPERATIONS...

THE
INNKEEPER
IS COMING
UP.

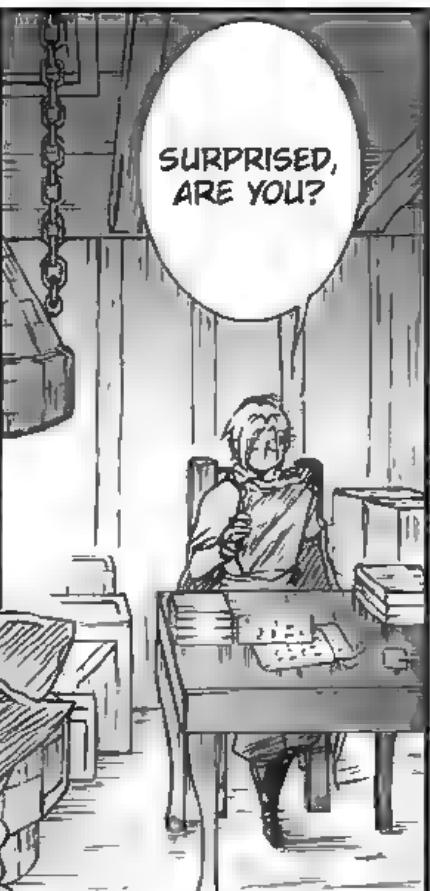


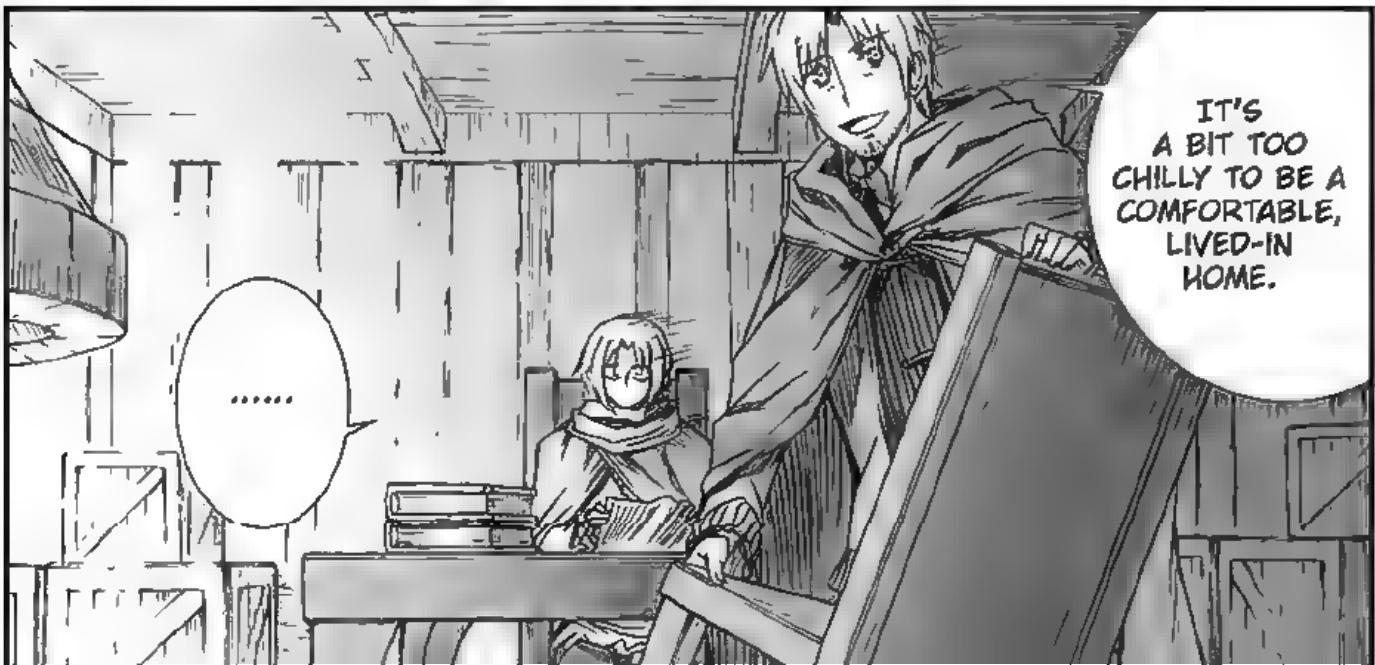
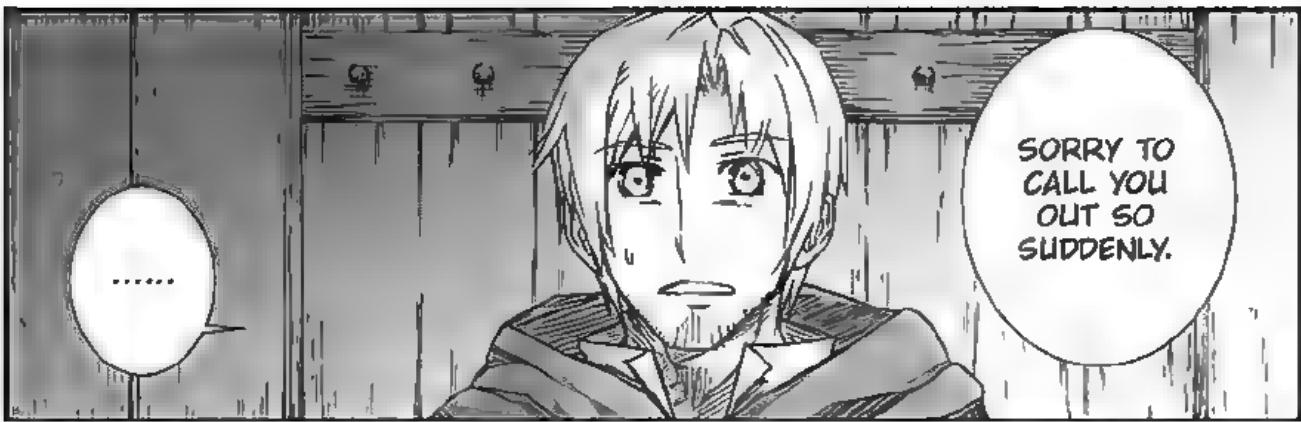


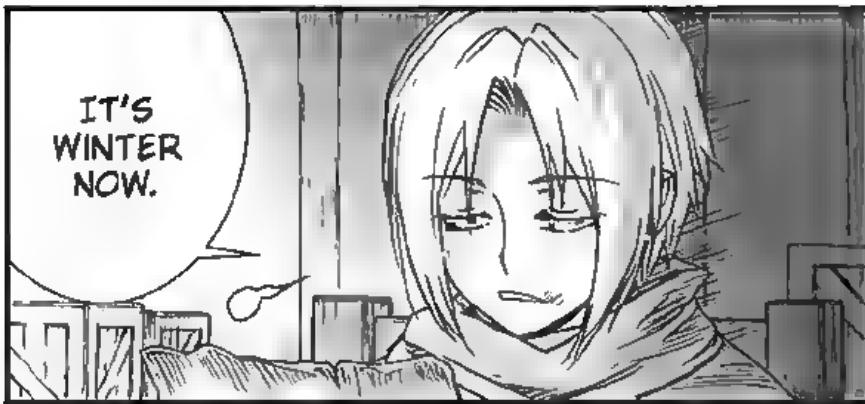
SPICE & WOLF



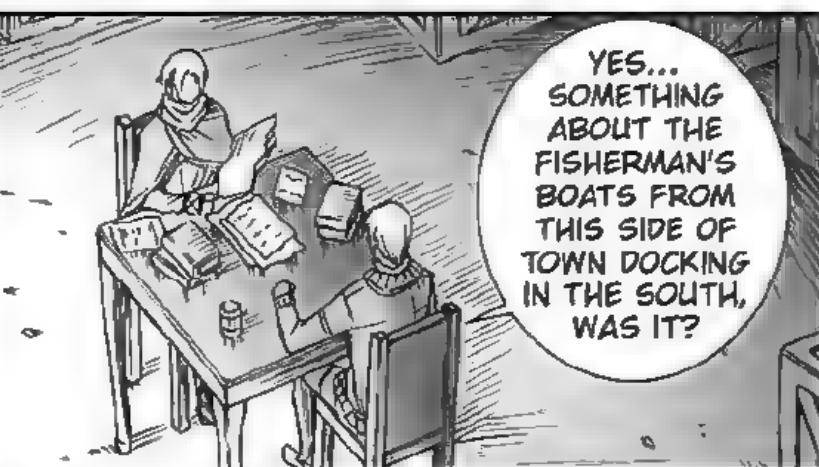
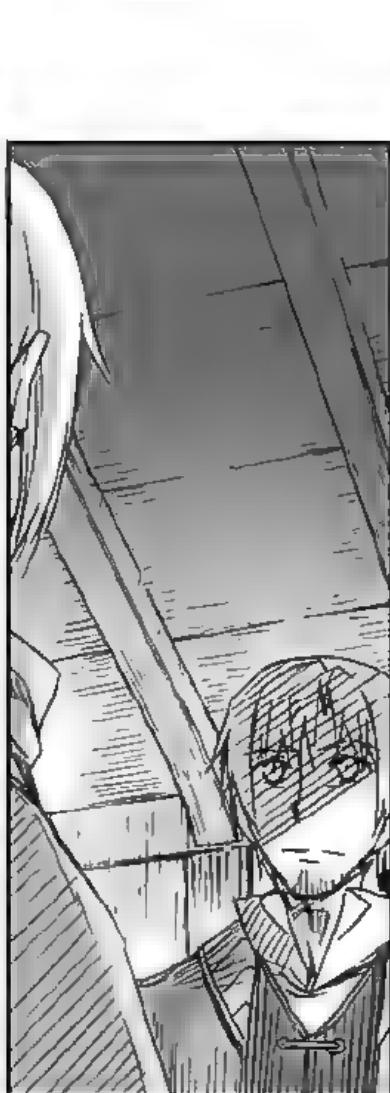
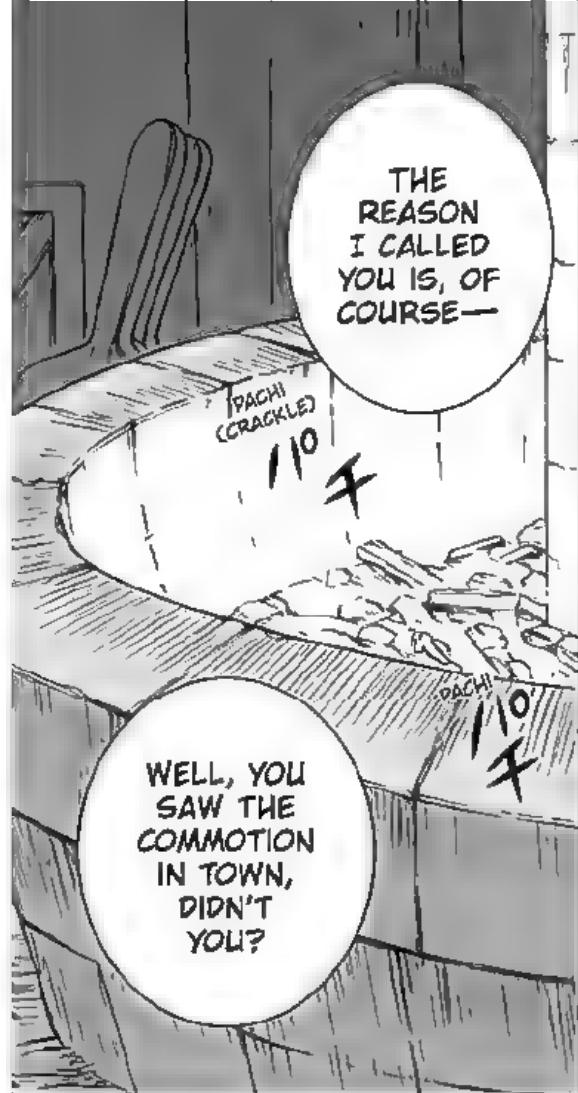


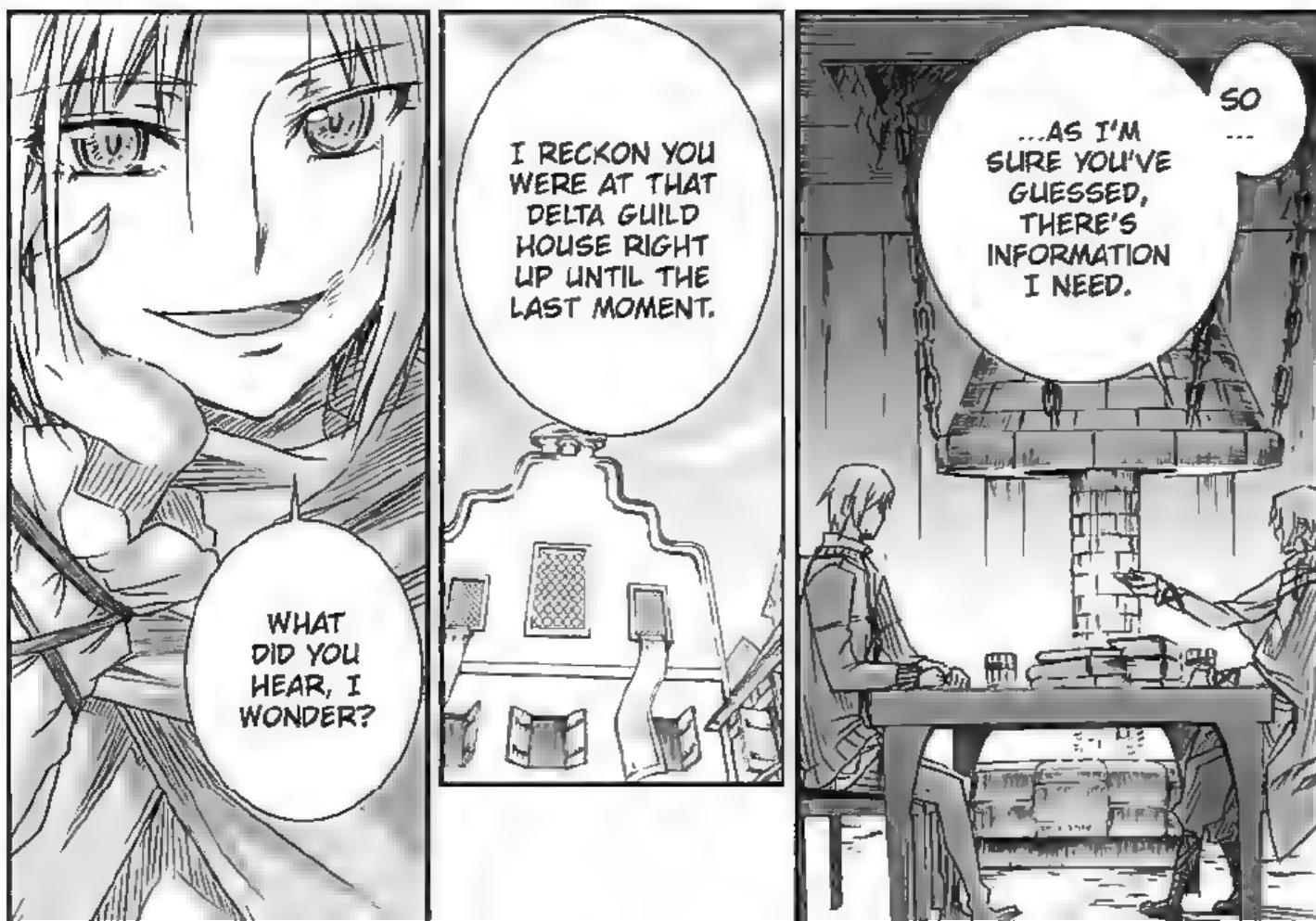
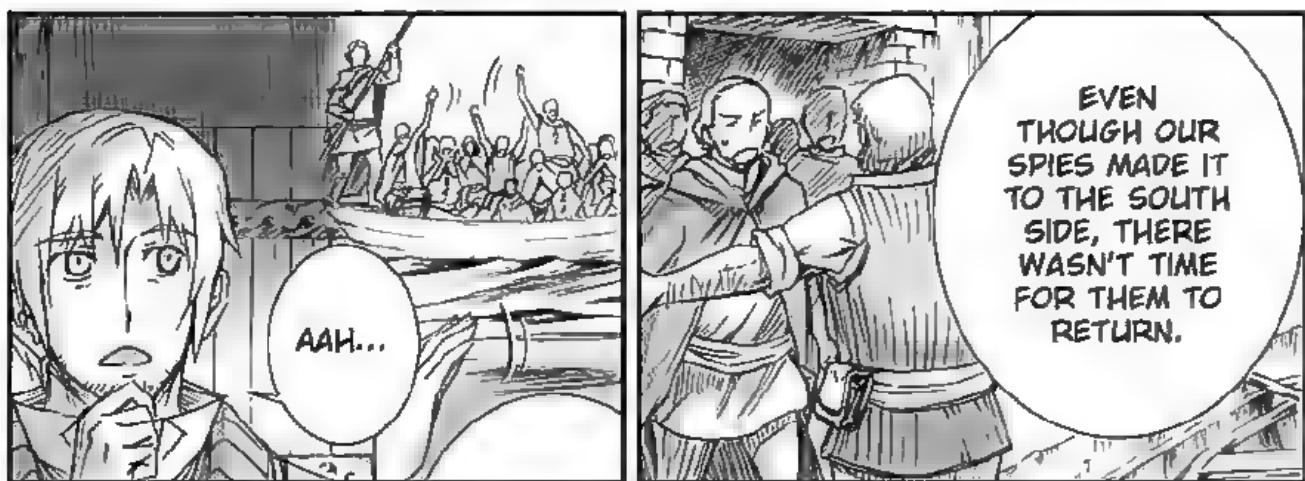


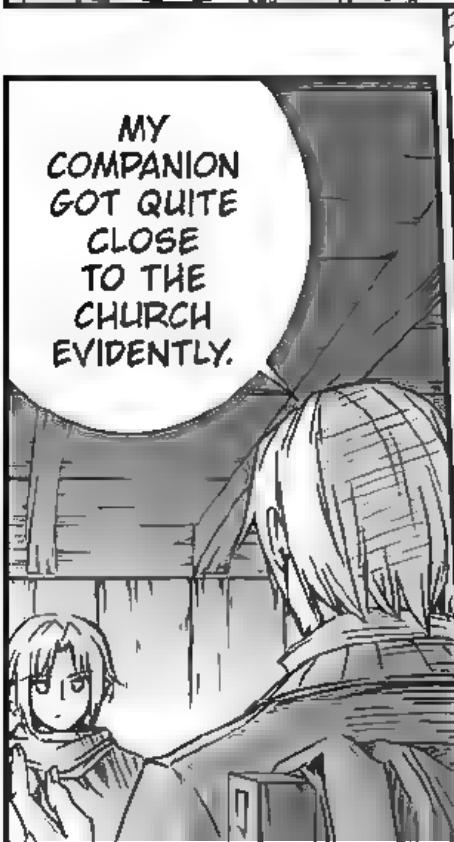
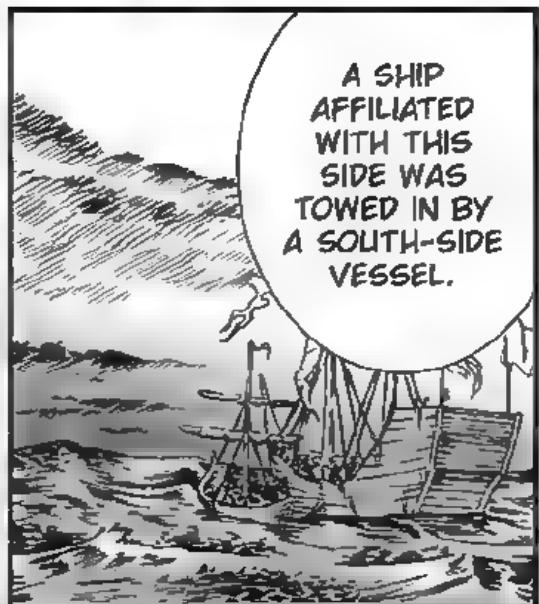
















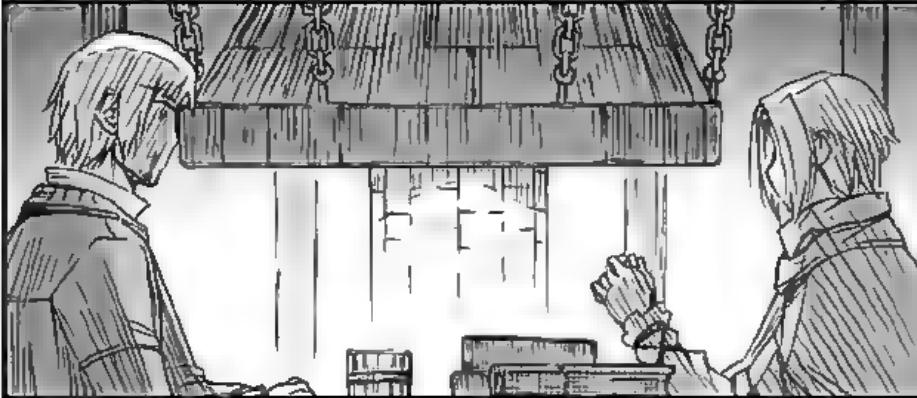
I'VE ONLY MEAGER COIN AND GOODS, SADLY, BUT I'VE MORE THAN ENOUGH CONNECTIONS AND INFLUENCE. IT'LL BE A GOOD FOOTING FOR BUSINESS.

PACH! (SNAP!)

HIRA FLUTTER

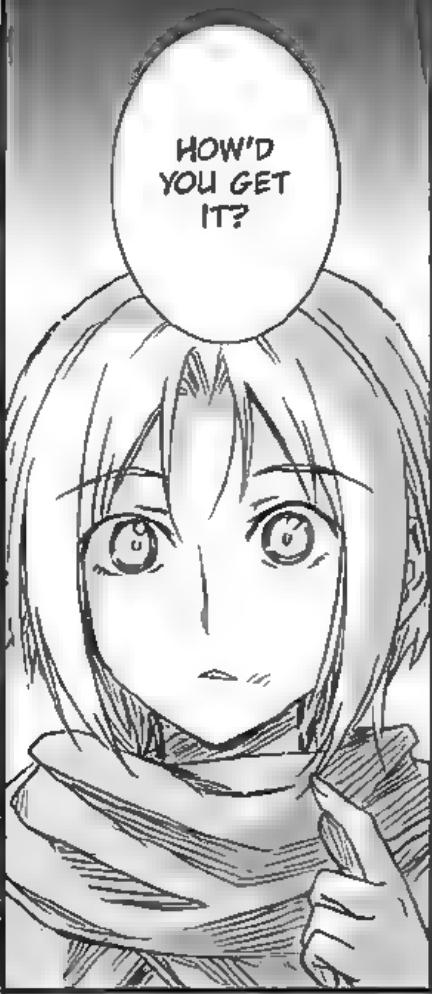
...AND THEIR BELLIES ARE TOO LARGE FOR THEM TO FIT THROUGH ITS PATHS.

THE STORY OF THIS CONTRACT WAS TOLD TO ME BY THE LOT THAT LOCKED ME UP IN HERE...



A TOOL USED TO HOLD ANIMALS LIKE HORSES OR OXEN IN PLACE WHEN PULLING CARTS. IT RESTRICTS THEIR MOVEMENT.









A NARWHAL?
AS IN THE
IMMORTAL
SORT?



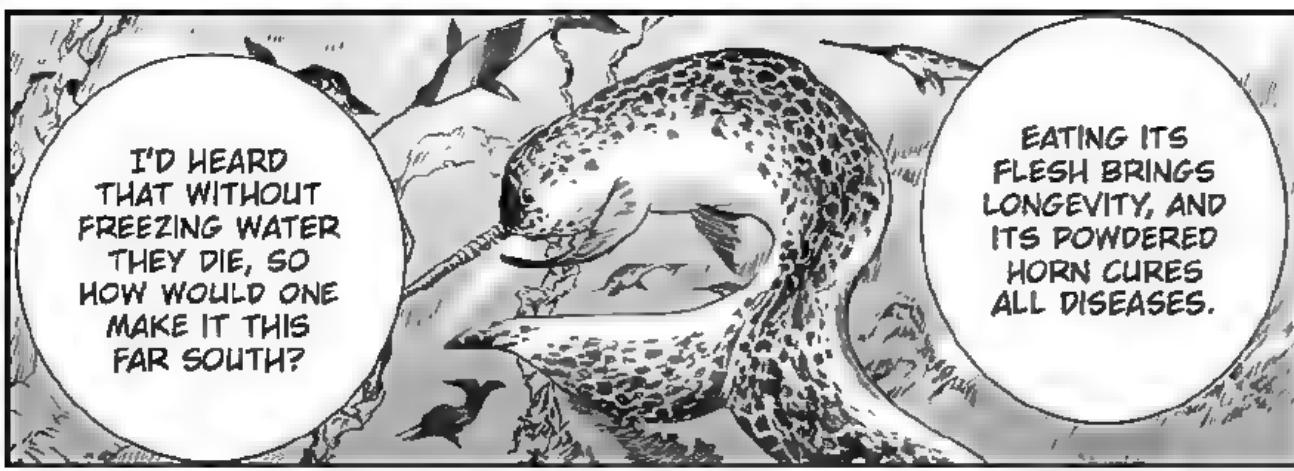
YES. A
HORNED SEA
MONSTER.



...EVEN
THOUGH
THEY DID
THIS TO
ME.



THE
PEOPLE
WHO
LOCKED
ME UP
HERE ARE
TERRIFIED
I'LL GET
ANGRY...

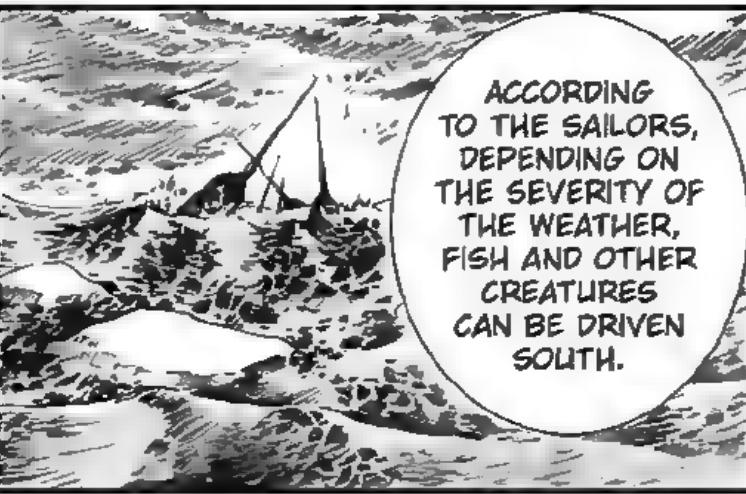


I'D HEARD
THAT WITHOUT
FREEZING WATER
THEY DIE, SO
HOW WOULD ONE
MAKE IT THIS
FAR SOUTH?

EATING ITS
FLESH BRINGS
LONGEVITY, AND
ITS POWDERED
HORN CURES
ALL DISEASES.



THOUGH
THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
HEARD OF IT
HAPPENING
WITH A
NARWHAL.



ACCORDING
TO THE SAILORS,
DEPENDING ON
THE SEVERITY OF
THE WEATHER,
FISH AND OTHER
CREATURES
CAN BE DRIVEN
SOUTH.

AND
IF IT GOES
BADLY, THERE
WOULD BE
WAR.

THE SOUTH
SIDE WANTS TO
MAINTAIN THEIR
CONTROL, SO
THEY'LL DO
ANYTHING TO
STAY ON EQUAL
FOOTING.

YES.

THE NORTH
SIDE BELIEVES
THEY CAN TURN
EVERYTHING
AROUND.

IF THEY
SELL THE
NARWHAL,
THEY'LL
HAVE MONEY
TO PAY THEIR
DEBTS AND
MORE.

.....BUT
SURELY
THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN...

THEY'LL
STEAL
IT, THEN
SELL IT.
TWO BIRDS
WITH ONE
STONE.

SO THE
SOUTH CAN'T
LET THEM
HAVE IT,
NO MATTER
THE COST.

SO
WILL YOU
DO IT?

...NO,
WAIT.

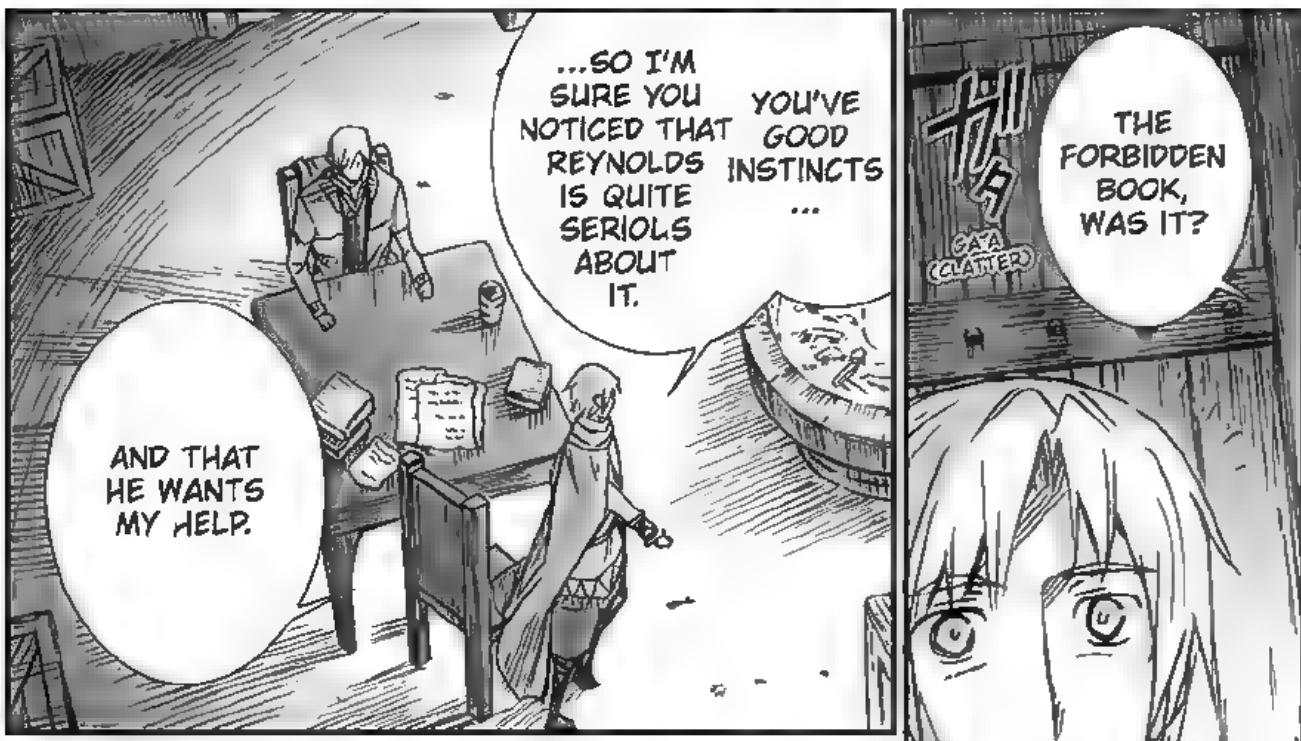
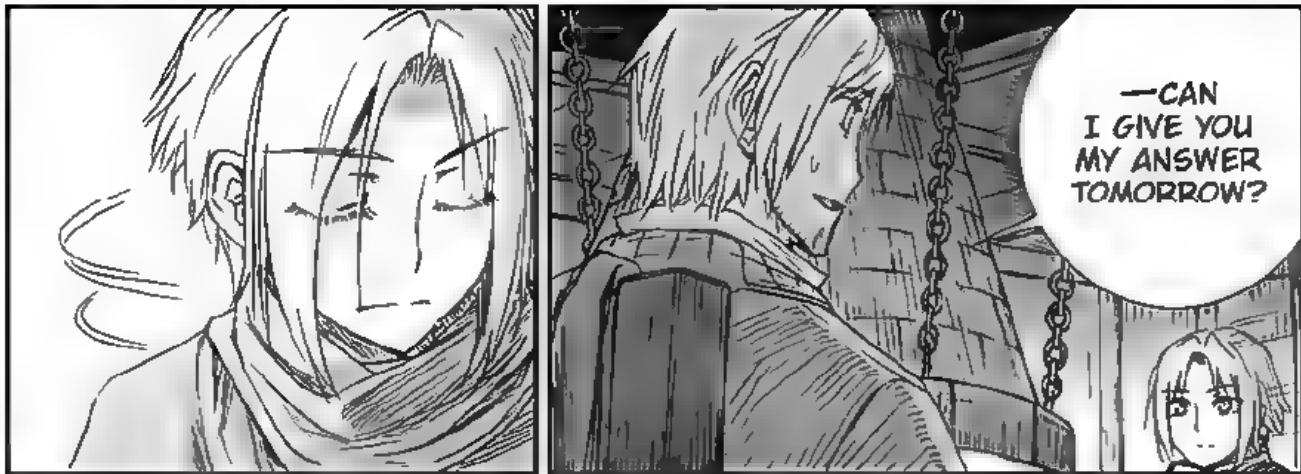
THAT'S WHY
THEY TOOK IT TO
THE CHURCH. TO
AVOID HAVING IT
TAKEN BY FORCE
OF ARMS.

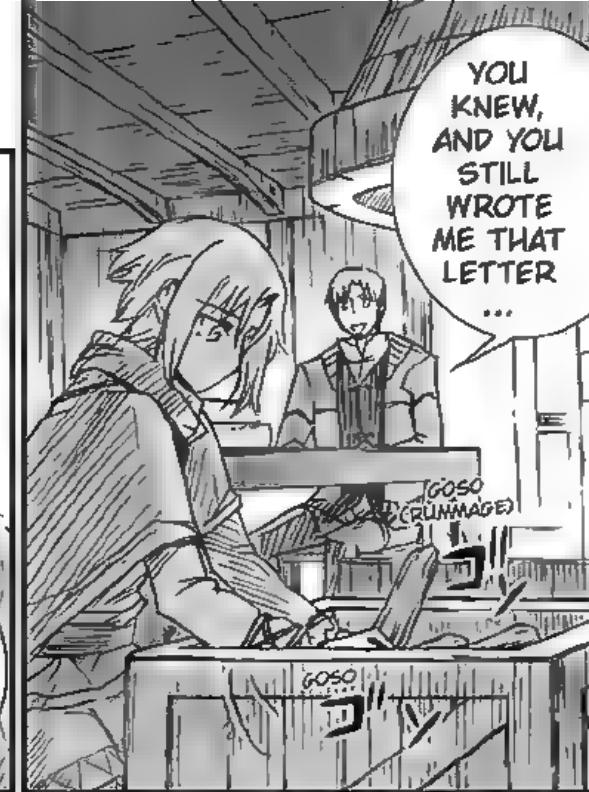
WHAT
WILL IT
TAKE TO
CONVINCE
YOU TO
DO IT?

—IF YOU
CAN SLIP
THROUGH
THIS
PASSAGE...

...DON'T
YOU THINK
SOMETHING
INCREDIBLE
AWAITS
YOU ON
THE OTHER
SIDE?

SHE'S
RIGHT.







I'M
SURE
IT IS.



IT'S
QUITE AN
OPPORTUNITY,
I FEEL.

SO
WHAT
DO YOU
SAY?



HE'S
A GREAT
MERCHANT.



HOW
WERE YOU
TREATED AT
THE GUILD
HOUSE?

SO?

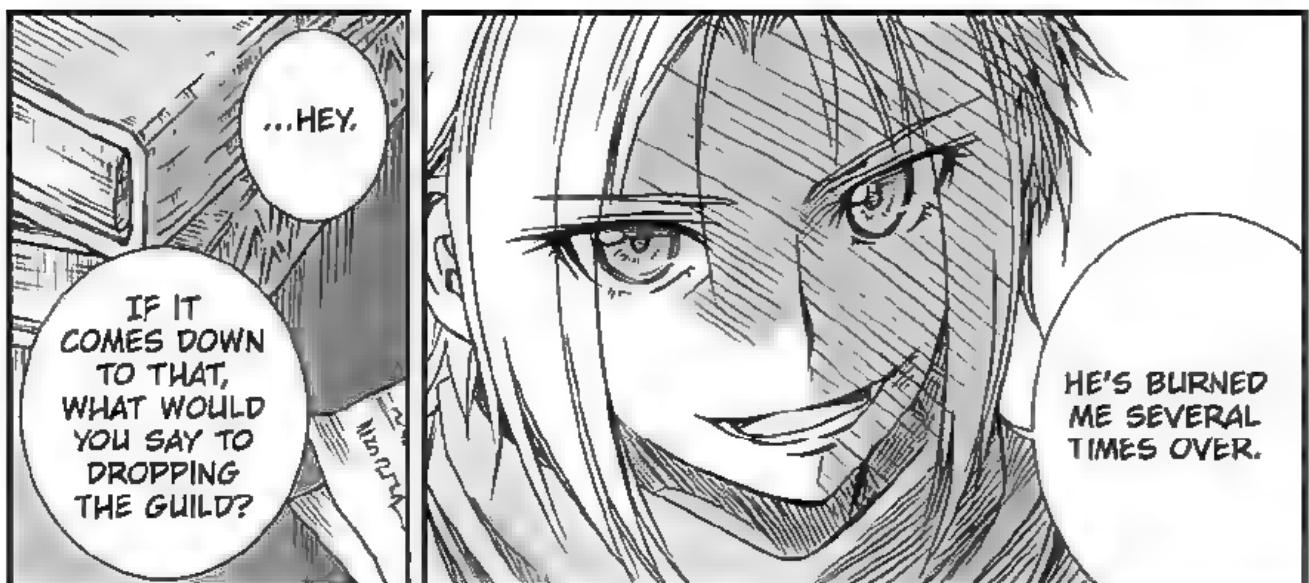
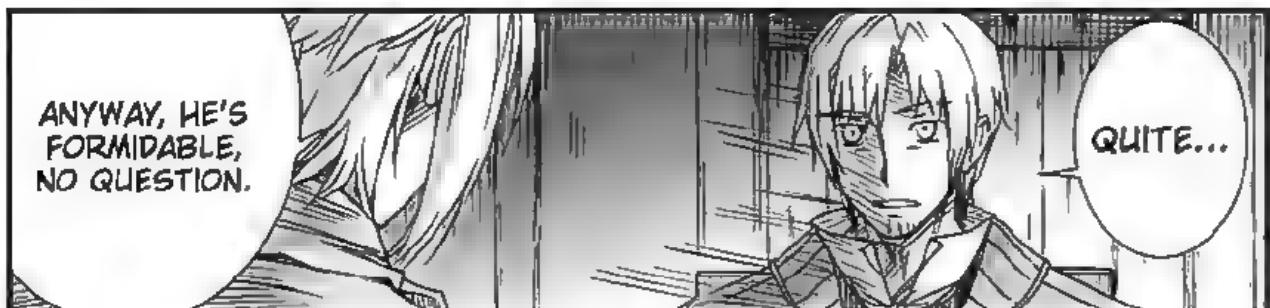


SO WHY DO
YOU MENTION
MR. KIEMAN?

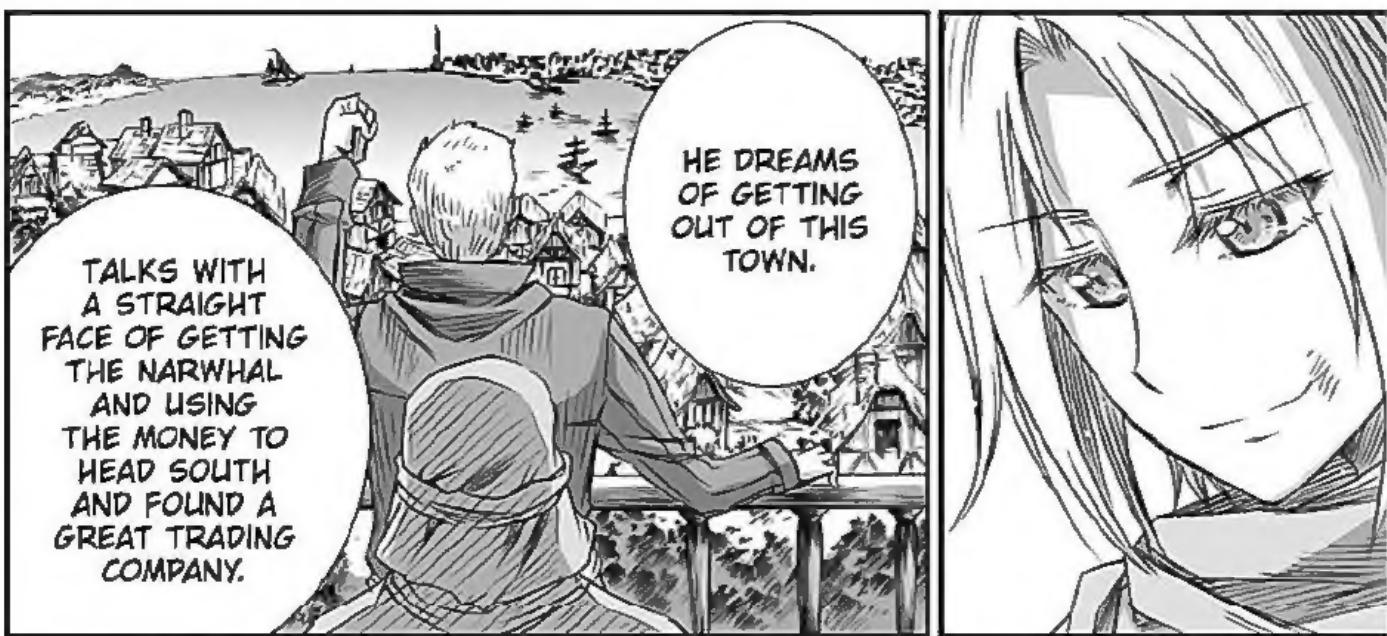


AND
HE'S
THE
ONE.

OH,
INDEED.
THERE'S
A GIFTED
TRADER
IN EVERY
GUILD.









Special Thanks !!

MR. ITTOUHEI OKAMOTO, MR. TENTSU
TOI, MR. YAKKUN, MR. N-TA, MR. A.

To be continued in Volume 10...

I turn around, and suddenly we're at Volume 9!
Koume-san's Eve is so clever and surprisingly
adorable that she makes my heart beat faster! I
can't take my eyes off the story. Hang in there!

支倉凍砂
ISUNA HASEKURA

SPICE & WOLF

Congratulations on Volume
9 going on sale! Now that
Eve's finally shown up,
I'm more sucked into the
story than ever before.
I can't wait to see how
the manga version of
the story takes shape.



SPICE & WOLF 9

ISUNA HASEKURA
KEITO KOUME
CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA

TRANSLATION: PAUL STARR

LETTERING: TERRI DELGADO

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